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Your guide to ROSES

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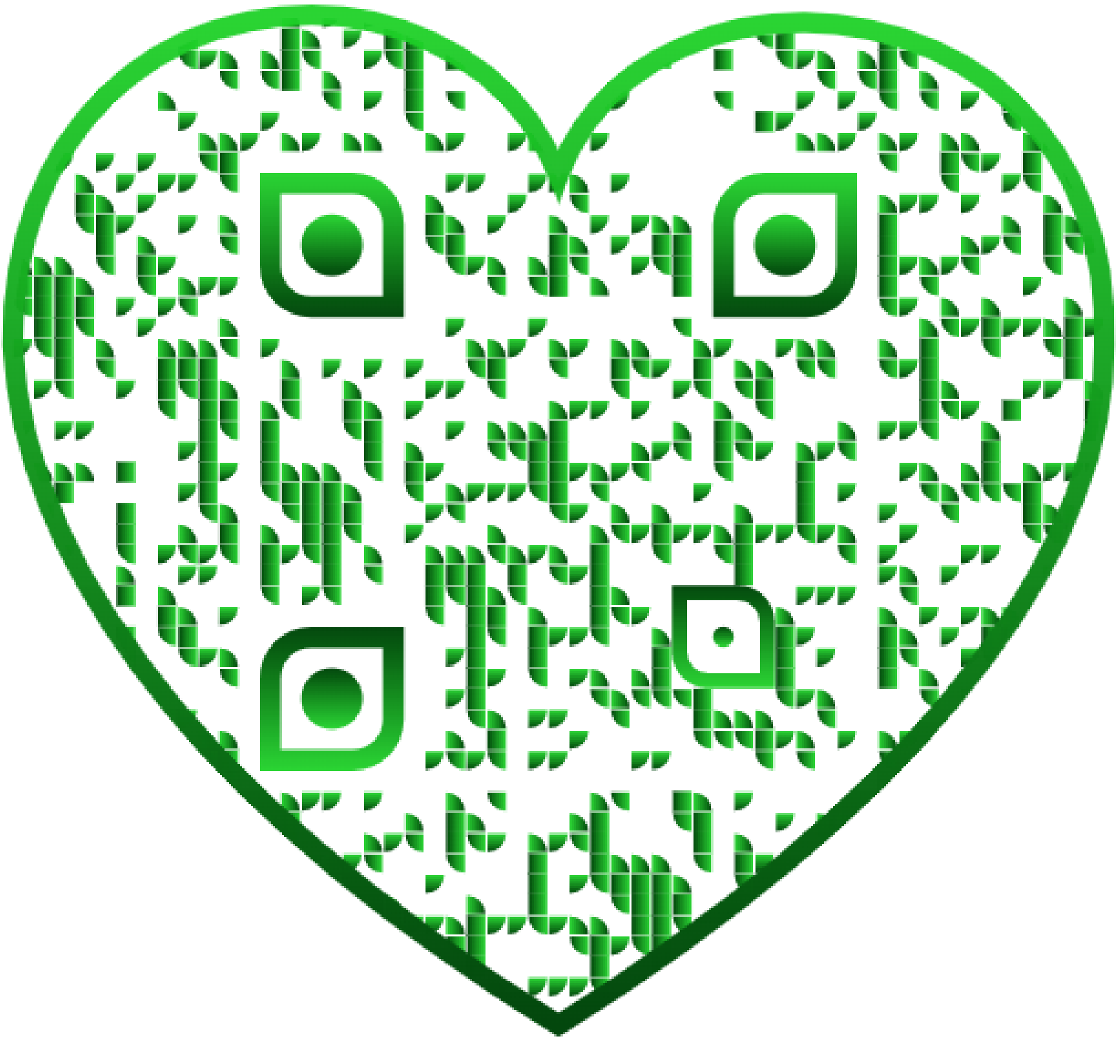
✔ Pruning made easy ✔ Planting know-how ✔ Roses for pots ✔ Problem solving

Gardeners' World YOUR HANDBOOK TO ROSES BBC



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Welcome

Roses are routinely voted as our favourite flower, so it's no surprise they're at the heart of many gardens up and down the land. And why not? There's a rose for every garden, whether you're looking for a climber to cover a fence, one that will do well in a container or small space, or one that will repeat flower over several months.

And that's not to mention the myriad colours to choose from, the beautiful scent roses create and the endless scope for cutting blooms to bring indoors.

Roses are simple to grow, too, and you'll find everything you need to get the best out of them in this special edition. From planting and pruning advice, to reliable varieties and great plant partners, the expert advice on these pages will guarantee success.

Kevin

Kevin Smith,

Editor, *BBC Gardeners' World Magazine*

There's a rose of every colour and size for every garden

6 In the garden

18 Star performers

58 Perfect combos

In the garden

Whether you're planting one rose or mixing them in among other star performers in the border, we've got plenty of garden inspiration to kickstart your planting ideas. From a standard in a pot to mixed planting with year round interest, here's our pick of beautiful rose gardens

6 In the garden

Star performers

Which rose is best for your garden? Discover the different types available as we reveal some of the best for a spectacular summer show

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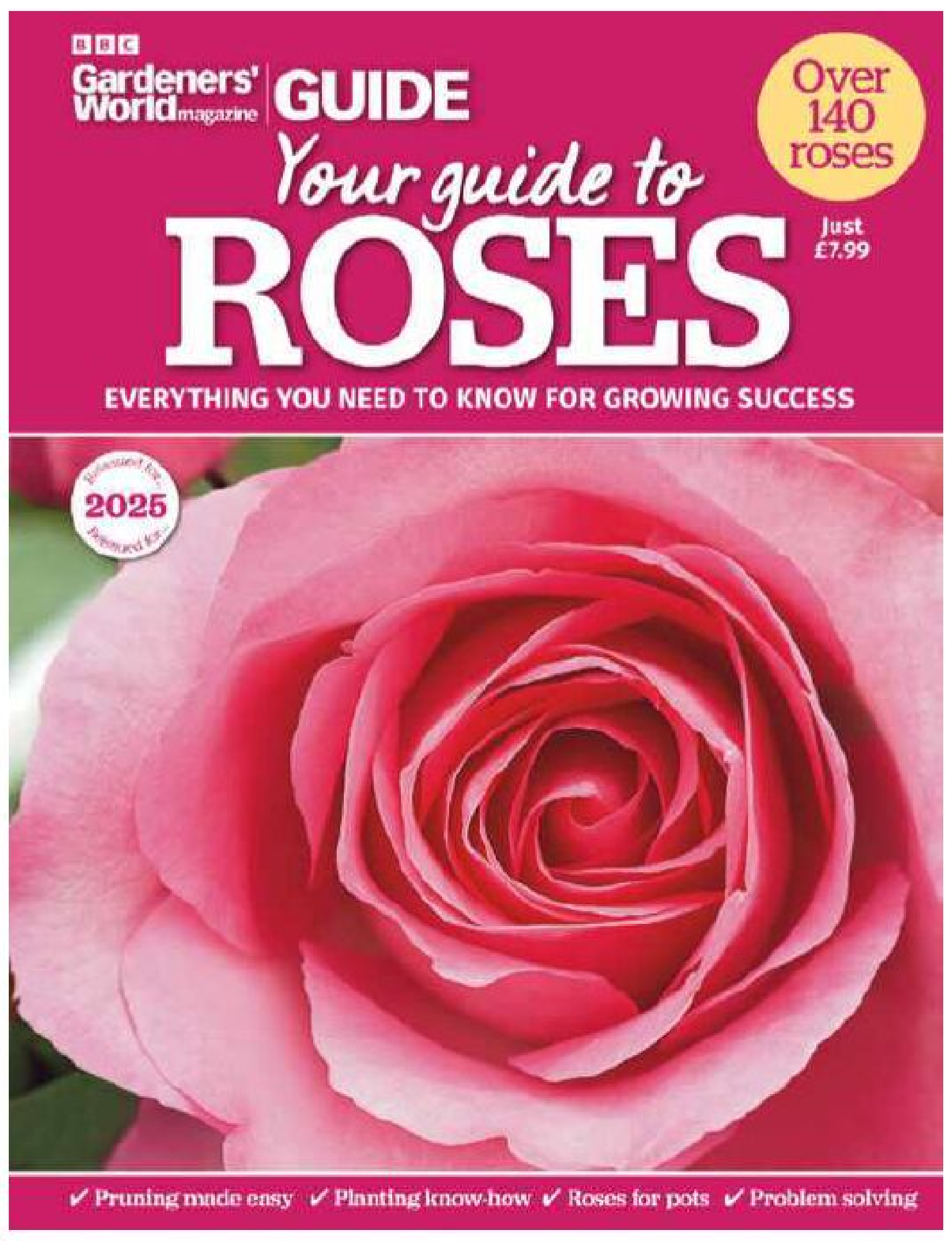
Rosa 'Pink Perfection'
by Jason Ingram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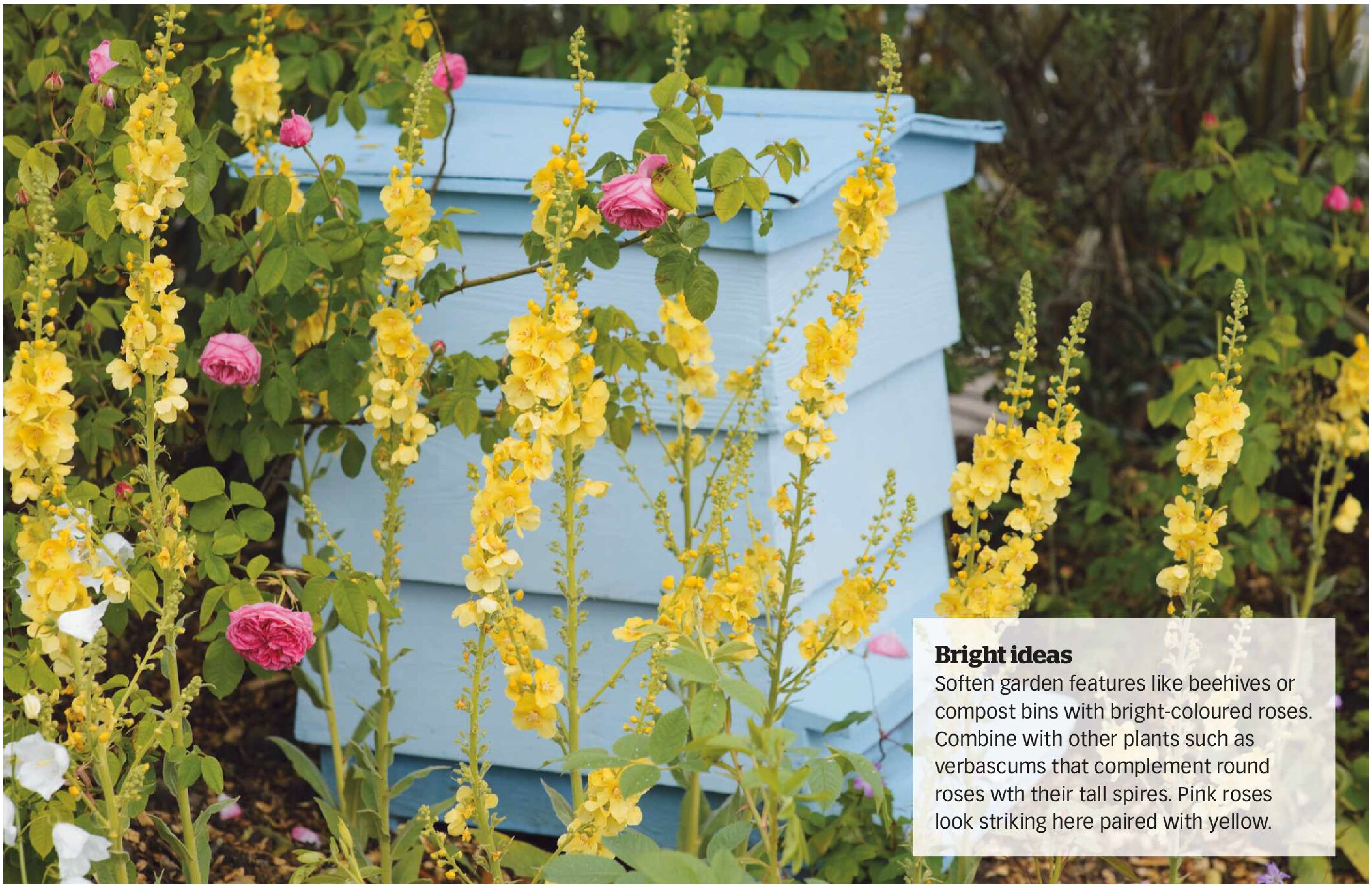
In the garden

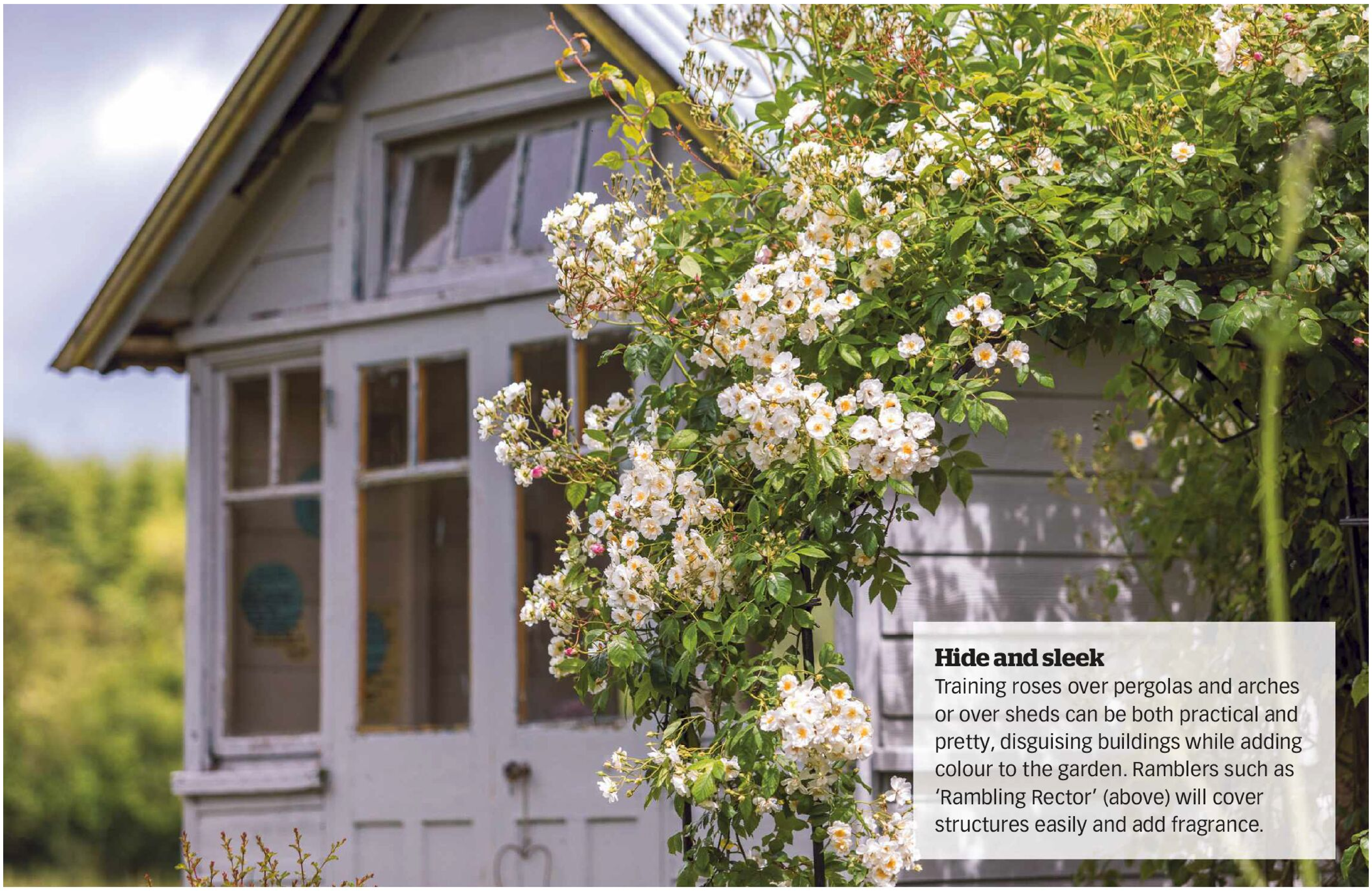
Roses and clematis create colourful focal points in this charming garden

Roses are one of our most loved plants in the garden. Whether it's a climber scrambling over a wall, or floribundas flowering throughout the borders, it's easy to transform a garden with the right varieties. Find some inspiration in the following pages



Bright ideas

Soften garden features like beehives or compost bins with bright-coloured roses. Combine with other plants such as verbascums that complement round roses wth their tall spires. Pink roses look striking here paired with yellow.



Hide and sleek

Training roses over pergolas and arches or over sheds can be both practical and pretty, disguising buildings while adding colour to the garden. Ramblers such as 'Rambling Rector' (above) will cover structures easily and add fragrance.

Tall orders
Use standard roses to add height to the border or plant in a container as a focal point on the patio. Standards such as this 'Anne Boleyn' will form an attractive round head, and you can underplant with other plants such as hardy cranesbill.

High profiles

You don't need huge borders to make an impression. Take inspiration from modern displays – roses of varying heights can be combined with grasses and summer perennials such as nepeta and geraniums to extend the flowering display.

To boldly go...

Create a showstopping planting scheme by using bold colours, mixing deep pink or red roses with purple perennials such as these towering delphiniums. You'll get big impact with bright pink roses like 'Tam O'Shanter' or the stripy *Rosa mundi*.

Take cover
Walls and fences provide extra planting space, which is important in a small garden.Use repeat-flowering roses to cover your boundaries in flowers throughout the summer. A space will seem bigger if a boundary is disguised by flowers.

Scentimental choice
Create a froth of flowers beneath trees with old-fashioned roses that will fill your garden with fragrance. The chalice-shaped pink 'Mme Pierre Oger' will go well with magenta-red 'Charles de Mills' in a border of light pink through to purple.

Clipped accents

Make your roses stand out with a formal hedge such as box or yew. The fresh green will be the ideal foil for bright roses like 'Harlow Carr' (pictured) and the neat, clipped look will add contrast to the billowing habit of the roses.

Ground breakers

You can get roses to blend into the border by using compact varieties that form rounded clumps, rather than giant, leggy shrubs. There are lots of groundcover roses available to provide contrast to taller plants like foxgloves.

Sitting pretty

Make more of seating areas by planting roses around them, either climbing up boundaries or in containers. Choose scented varieties so that you can enjoy the fragrance on a summer's day while you relax in the garden.

Aim high
Add interest to the planting in narrow borders with short climbers that can also be grown as shrubs, such as 'Crown Princess Margareta' which will add stature to your planting display.

Fast forward

If you want a rose to give coverage on your house, look for one that can reach a good size quickly such as this beautiful yellow rose called 'The Pilgrim' that flowers all the way down to the bottom of the plant and has a good scent.

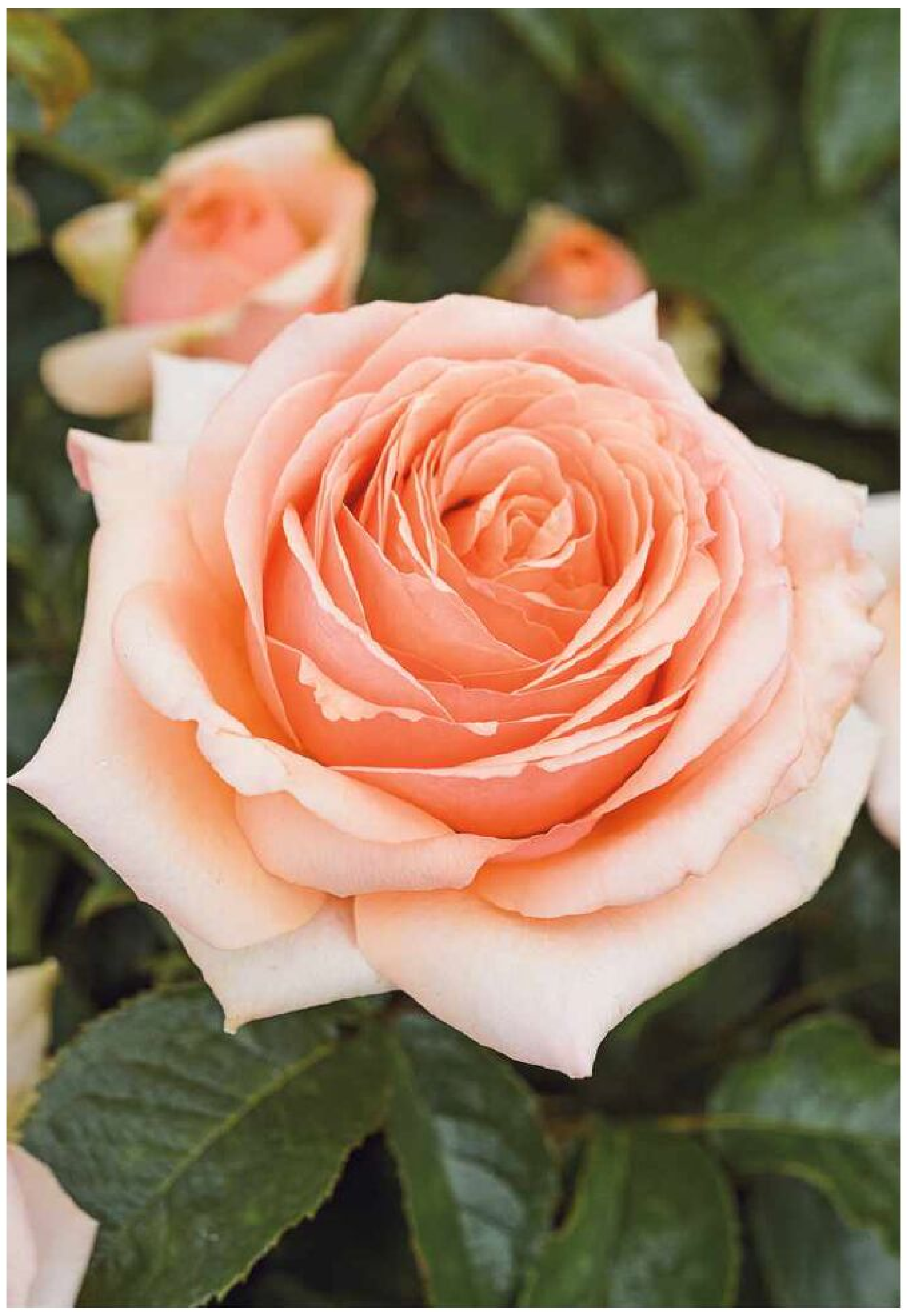
'Sophy's Rose' is a tea-scented shrub rose that is perfect for mixed borders

Star performers

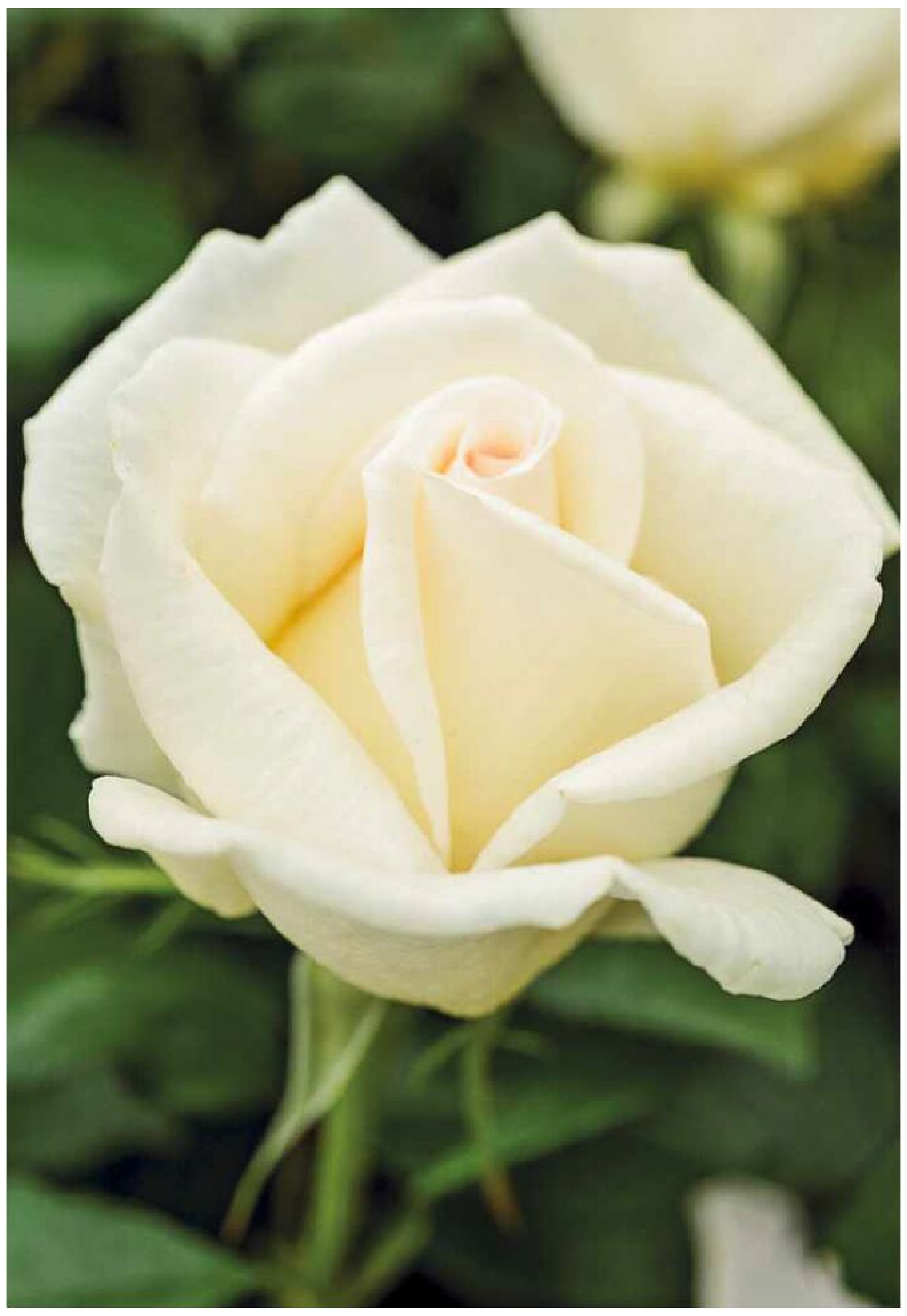
Discover the different types of roses that can transform your garden with their beautiful blooms and heady fragrances as we pick the best, including top roses for scent and cutting to bring indoors

Hybrid tea roses

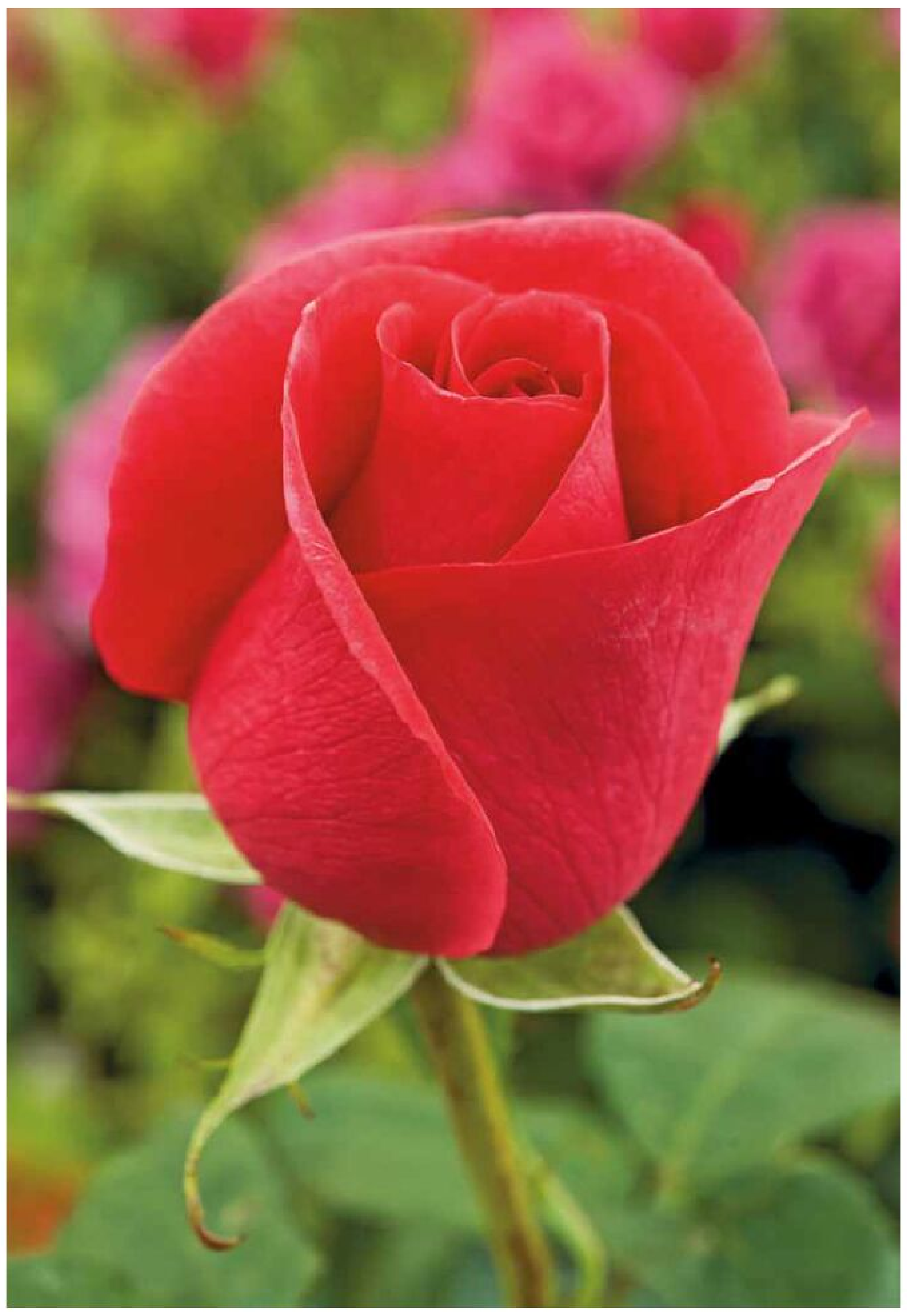
Hybrid tea roses are bush roses that are popular for their large flowers. The blooms are usually produced on single stems, rather than in clusters, like floribundas, so they make excellent cut flowers. They are available in a good range of colours and tend to be short, upright plants. They are not as easy to combine in the border as other types of rose but are perfect for formal gardens and cut flower gardens. Many are scented, but some have no scent at all – these roses make up for it, though, with beautiful blooms.



'Lynda Bellingham'
Named in memory of the actress Lynda Bellingham, this rose has warm peachy pink, long-lasting blooms with a light, spicy aroma. It's a compact and sturdy variety that produces flowers over a long period.
Flowers June to October
Height x Spread 1m x 1m



'Diamond Days'
This is a lovely hybrid tea rose with pale yellow-white blooms that have a citrusy fragrance. With its upright, bushy growth, it's a good choice for the herbaceous border and makes an excellent cut flower.
Flowers June to October
H x S 80cm x 60cm



'All My Loving'
The blooms on this variety are perfectly formed – large double flowers in cerise pink that are held on strong stems and complemented by glossy foliage. A dense, bushy plant that's resistant to diseases.
Flowers June to October
H x S 1m x 1m

'My Girl'

As well as making a good cut flower, this hybrid tea also has a lovely fragrance. The apricot-yellow blooms are fully double and stand up well to bad weather. They are held on strong stems from early summer.

Flowers June to October

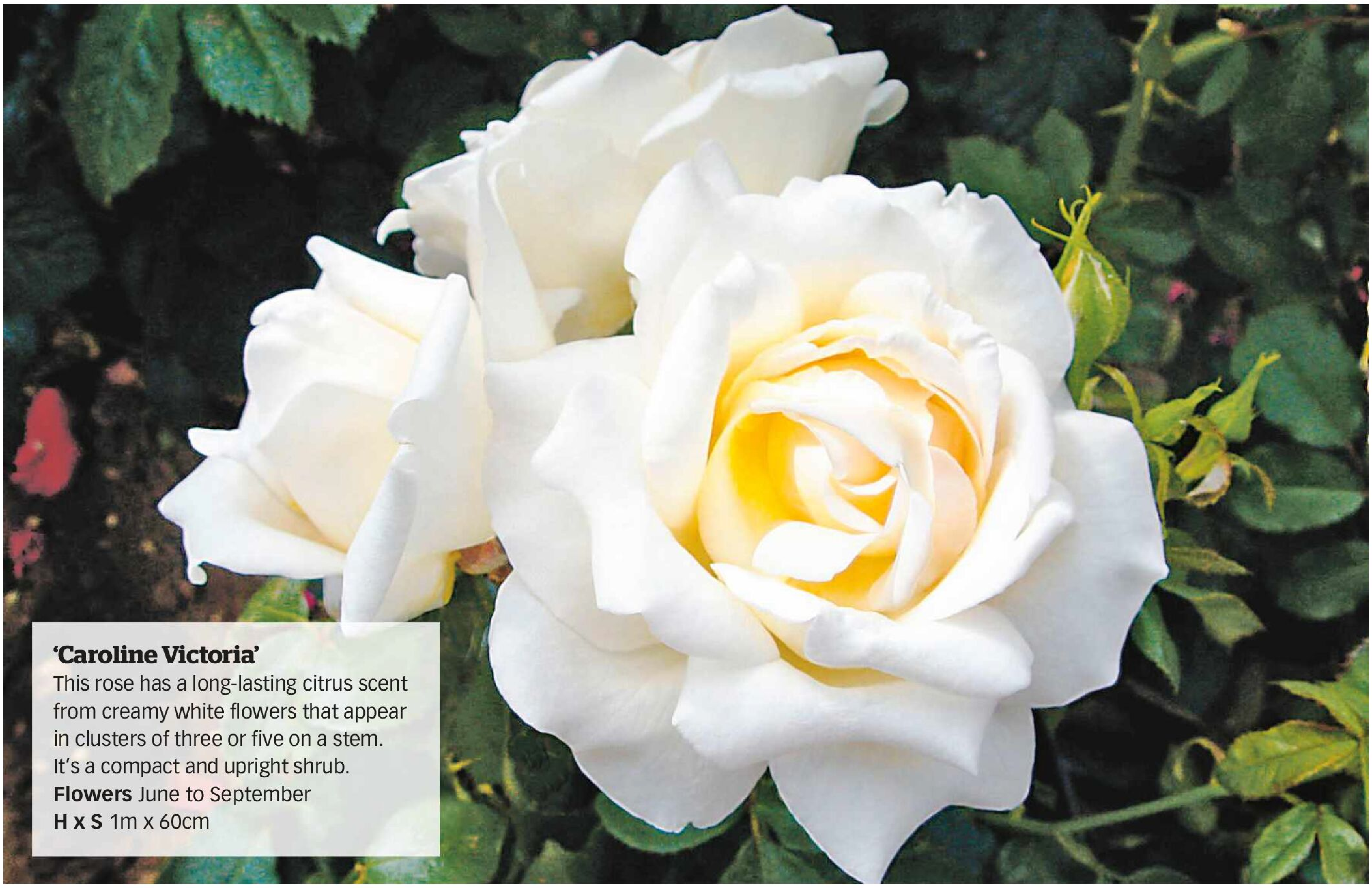
H x S 90cm x 40cm

'Nostalgia'

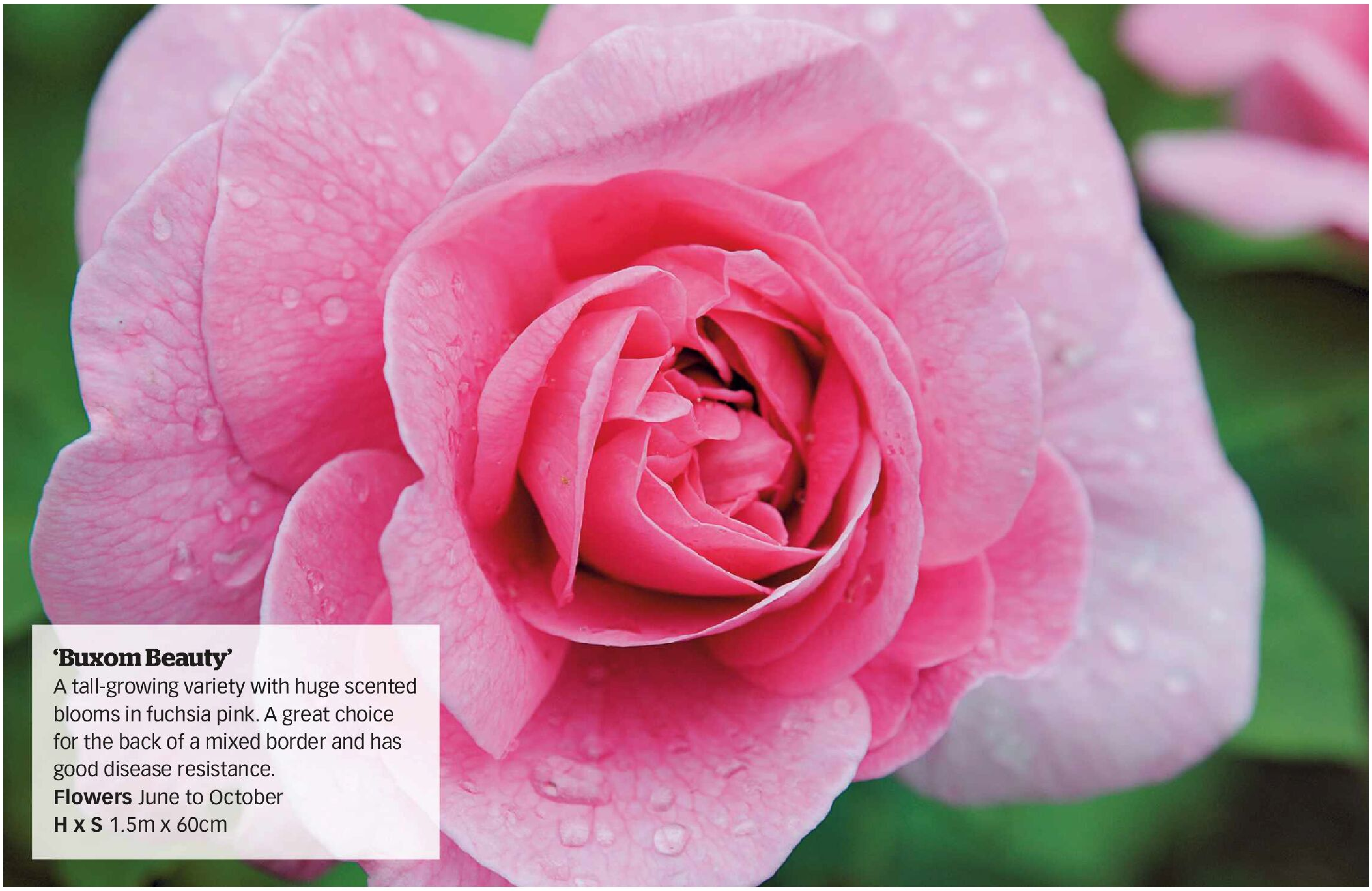
This variety has cream-coloured blooms with petals that are edged in bright cherry red. The flowers are complemented by glossy dark green foliage and have only a slight fragrance.

Flowers June to November

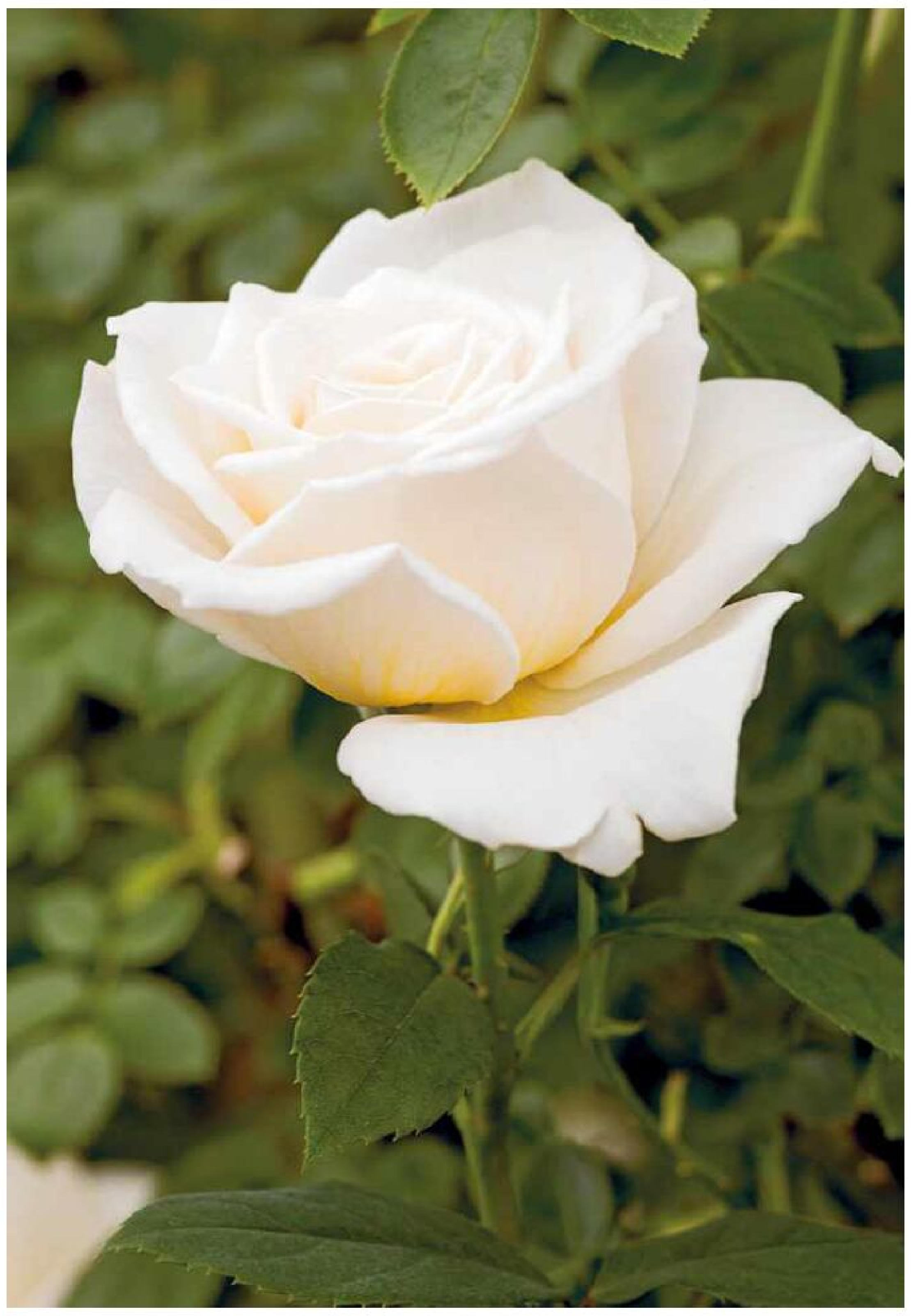
H x S 1m x 1m



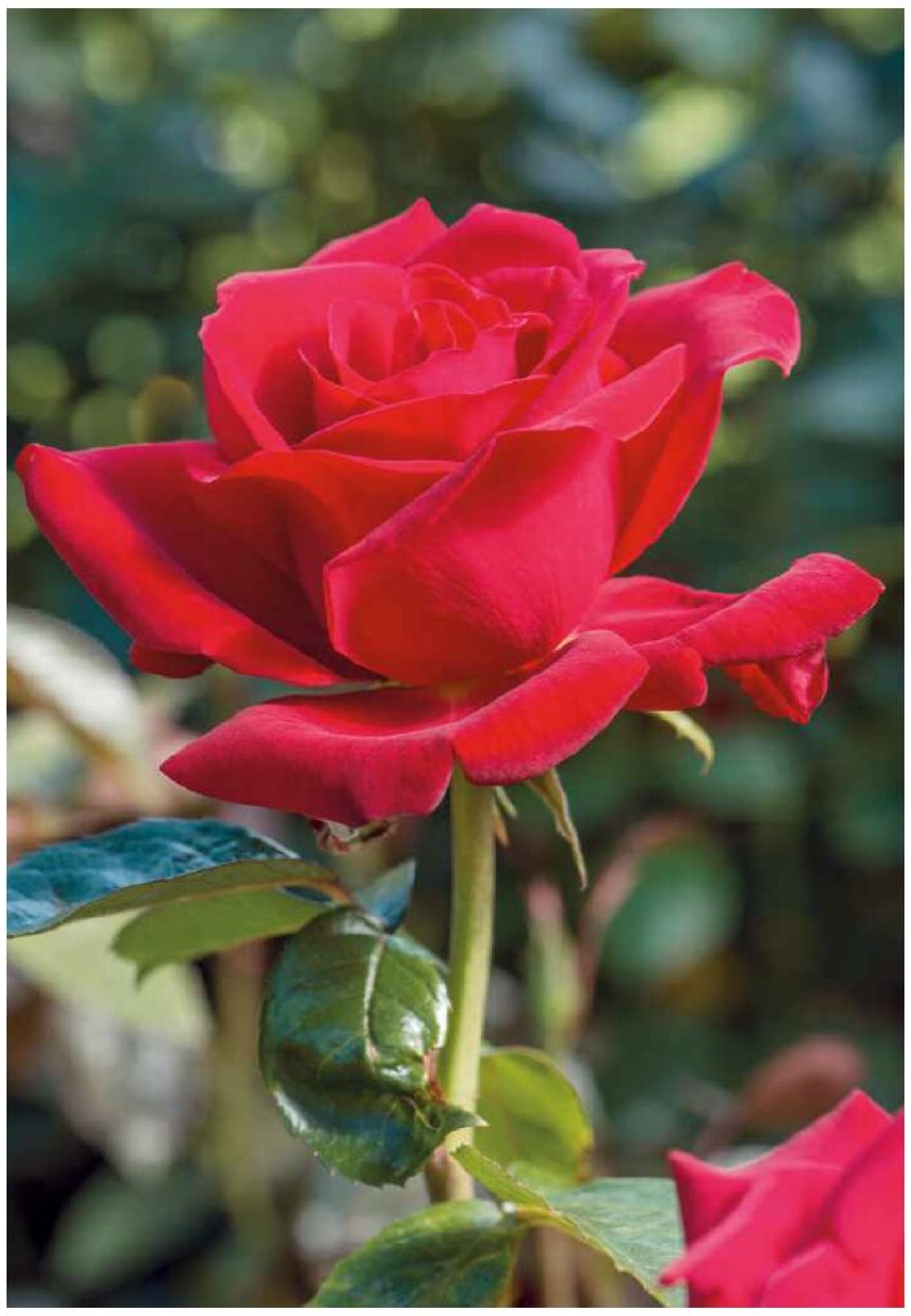
'Caroline Victoria'
This rose has a long-lasting citrus scent from creamy white flowers that appear in clusters of three or five on a stem. It's a compact and upright shrub.
Flowers June to September
H x S 1m x 60cm



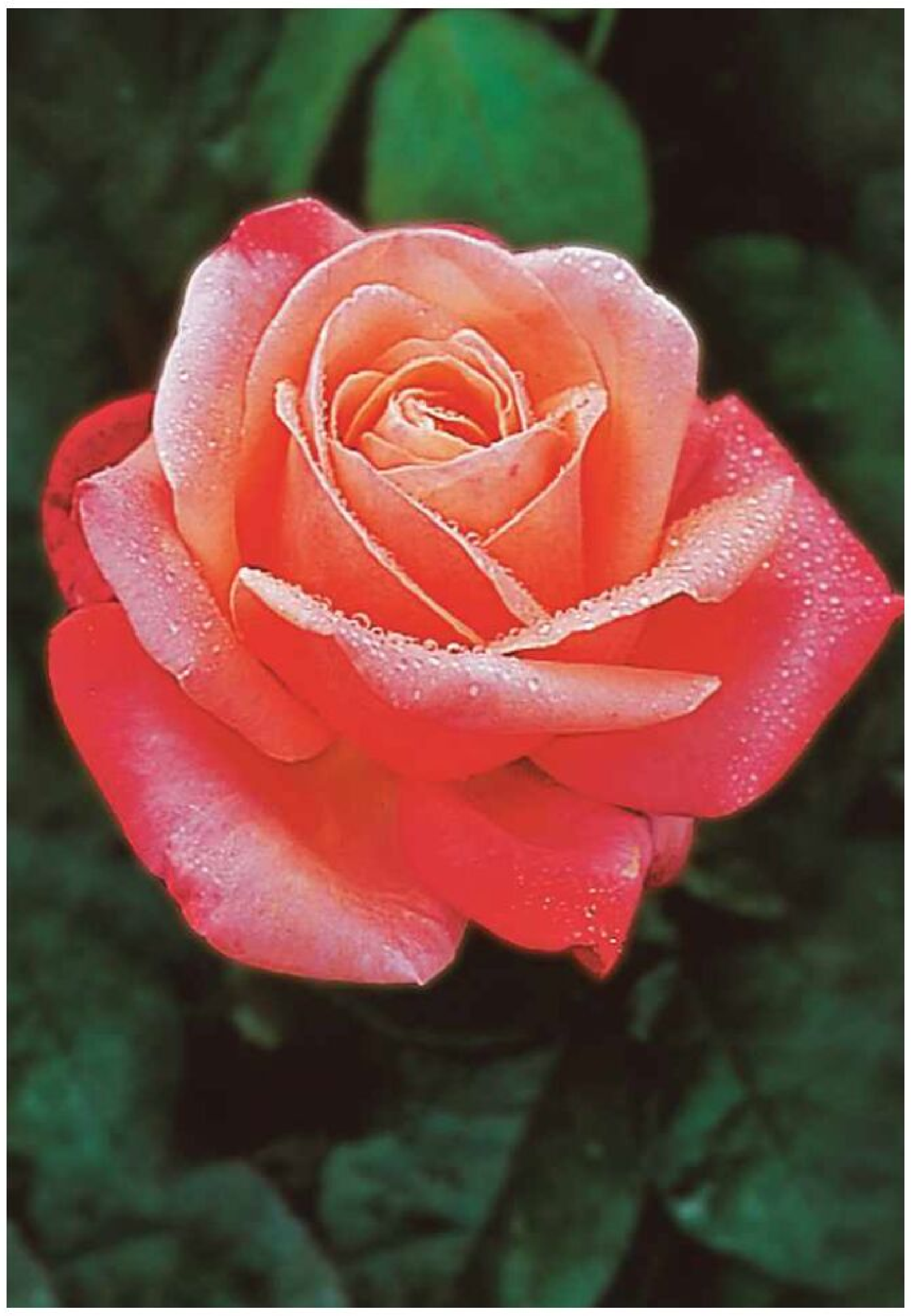
'Buxom Beauty'
A tall-growing variety with huge scented blooms in fuchsia pink. A great choice for the back of a mixed border and has good disease resistance.
Flowers June to October
H x S 1.5m x 60cm



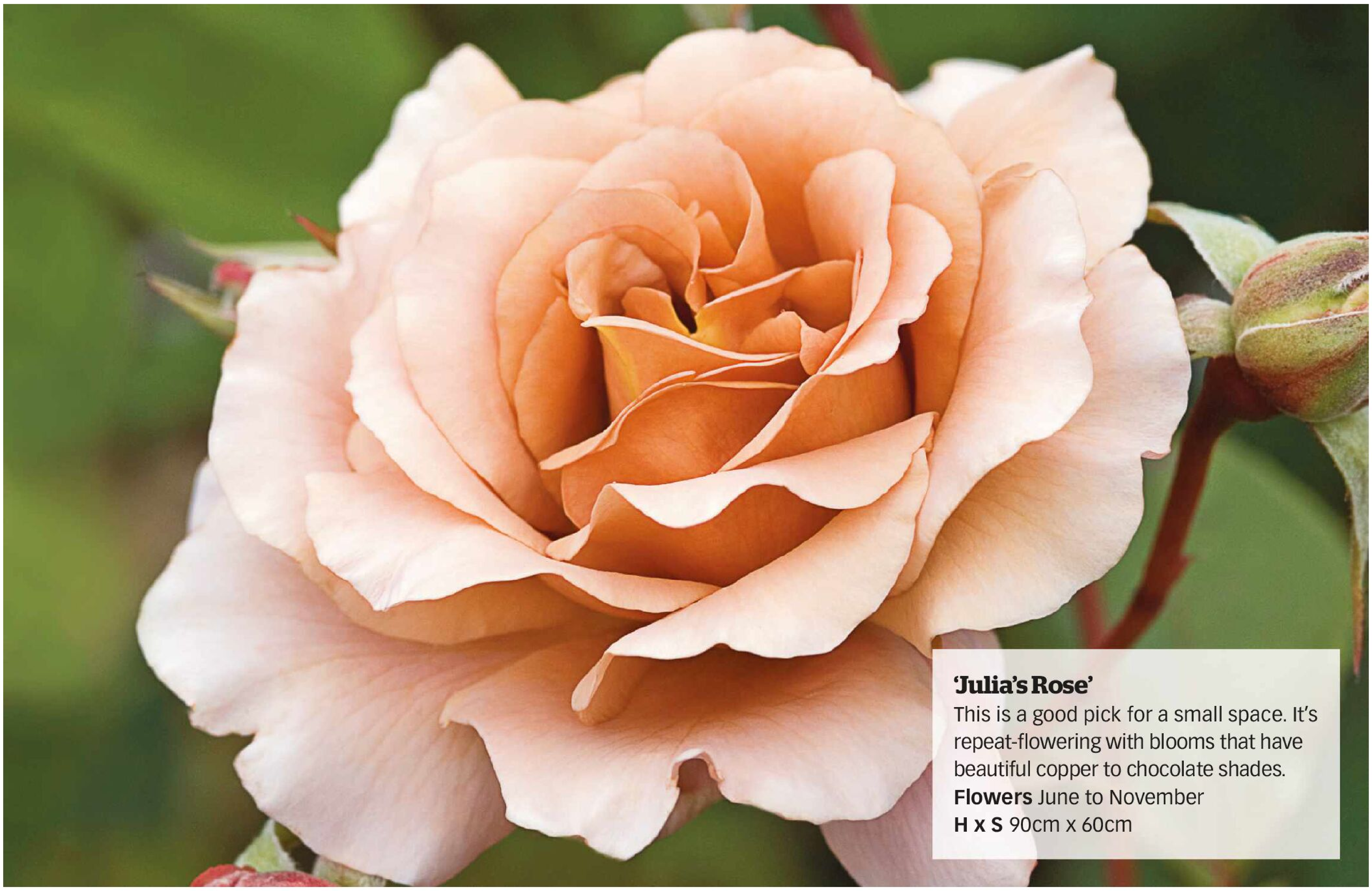
'Mary Berry'
This is a wonderful hybrid tea rose with highly packed, double pale yellow blooms. It has the look of a traditional variety of hybrid tea, as its flowers have pointed buds. It also has a strong, sweet fragrance.
Flowers June to October
H x S 1.2m x 50cm



'Royal William'
If you're looking for a true romantic red rose, this vigorous small shrub is the perfect choice for you. It has deep red blooms held on long stems, with a strong, rich scent, and large, glossy leaves.
Flowers June to October
H x S 1m x 1m



'Silver Jubilee'
This upright shrub rose is a vigorous grower with dark green foliage and large double pink flowers tinted with apricot, peach and cream. The blooms are followed by showy red or purple fruits.
Flowers July to November
H x S 1.2m x 1m



'Julia's Rose'
This is a good pick for a small space. It's repeat-flowering with blooms that have beautiful copper to chocolate shades.
Flowers June to November
H x S 90cm x 60cm

'Silver Shadow'

A repeat-flowering rose with large smoky-mauve flowers that have a lovely fragrance. It has good health and strong and bushy growth.

Flowers June to September

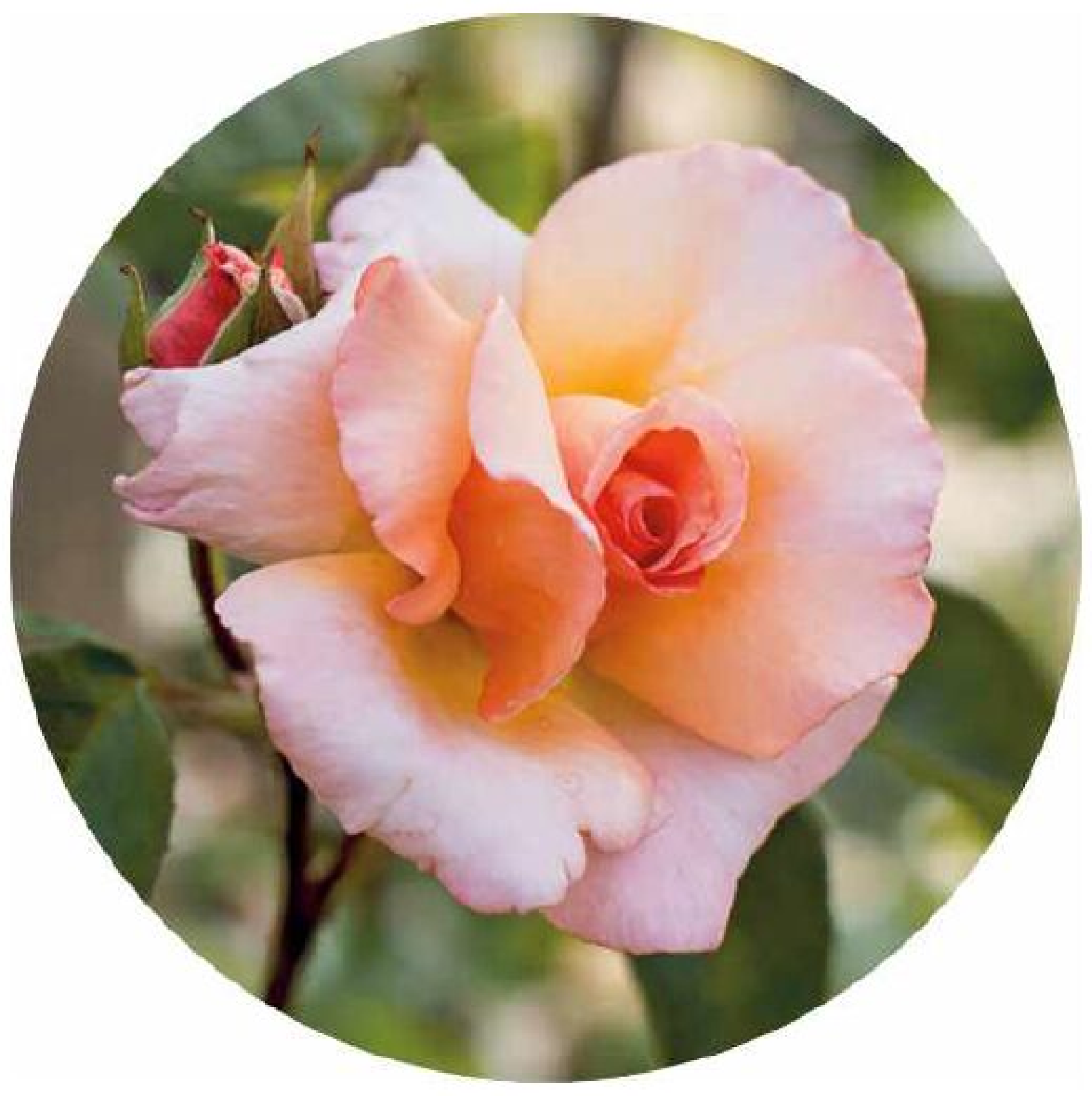
H x S 1m x 1m

'Charles de Mills' produces a gorgeous old rose scent

FOCUS ON

Scents

Roses are renowned for their wonderful scent. But they don't all have a strong fragrance and they don't all smell the same – they range from the traditional old-rose scent, through tea, citrus, honey, clove, myrrh, musk, apple, almond and even aromas like cucumber. Old roses have classic floral notes and are strong and lasting; those with a sweet scent have an almost sugary fragrance; a fruit scent has strong notes of apples and pears; a musk scent is a deep, lingering aniseed-like perfume, while a tea scent is spicy with hints of freshly picked tea and citrus. It's worth noting that some have little or no fragrance, so make sure you have a good sniff before buying.



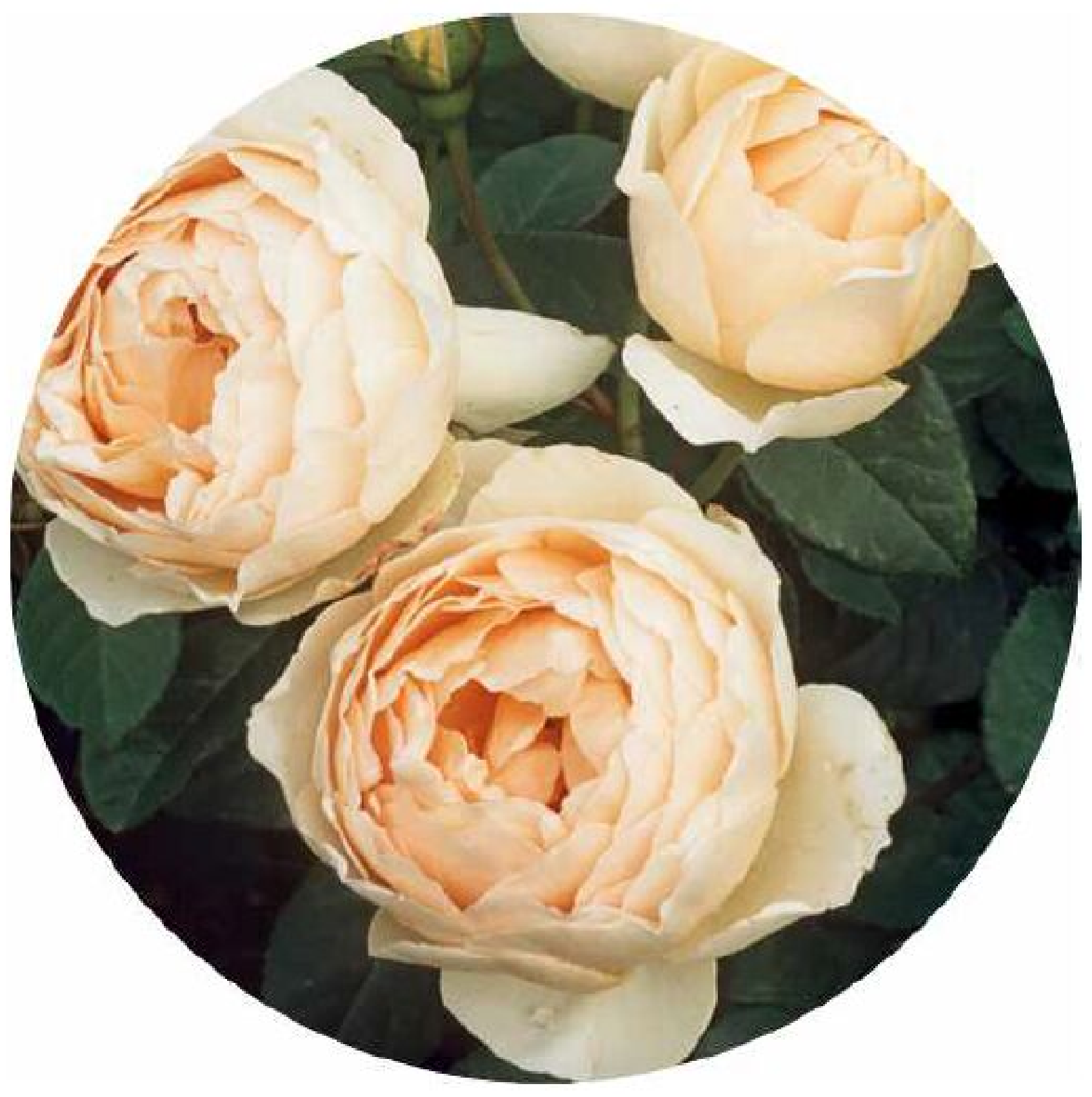
SWEET SCENTED

'Compassion'

A strong-growing, healthy climber that will flower in flushes throughout the summer months.

Flowers July to September

H x S 4m x 2.5m



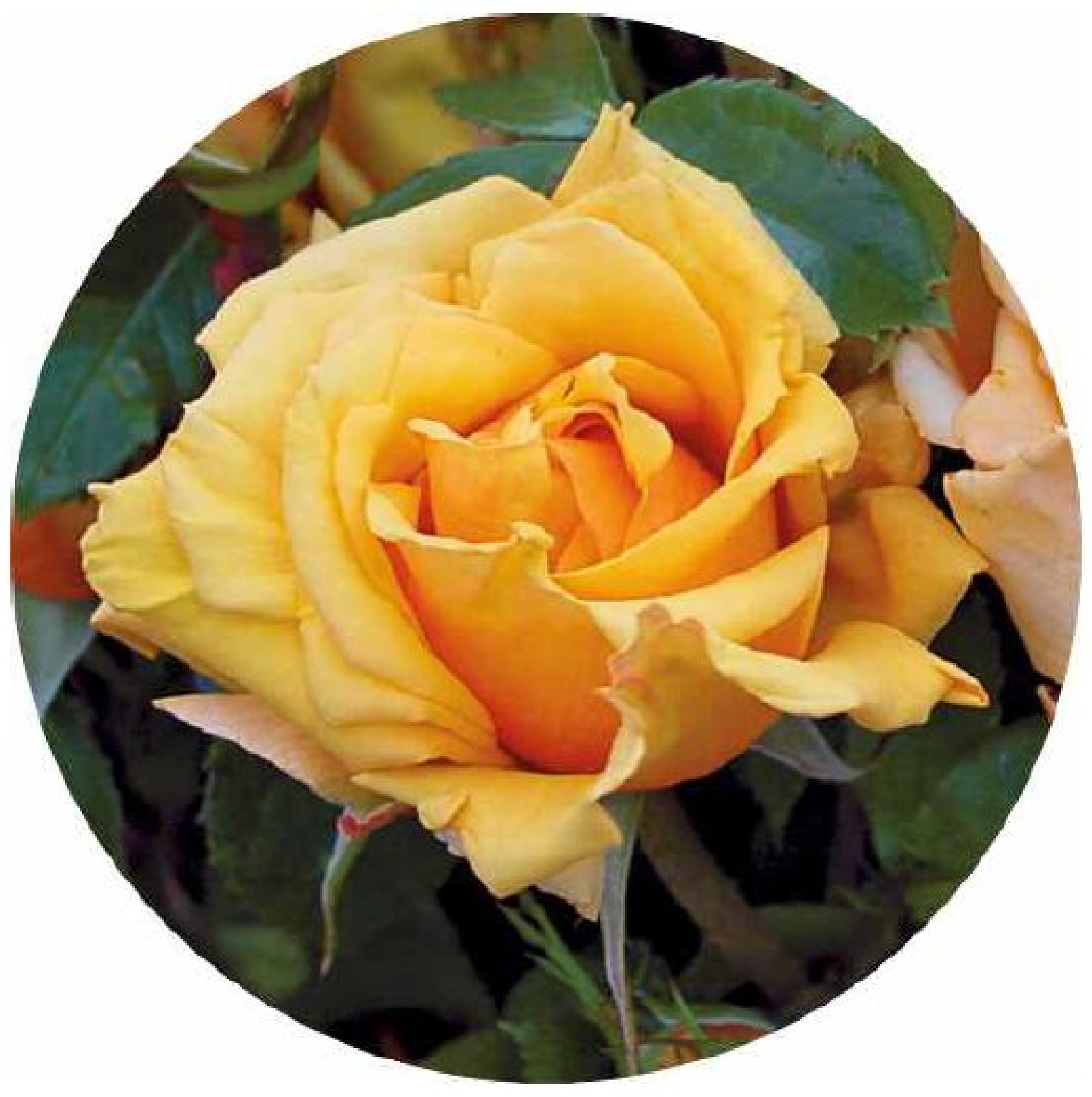
FRUIT SCENTED

'Jude the Obscure'

This English rose produces enormous chalice-like blooms. Grow it as a climber in warm areas.

Flowers July to October

H x S 1.2m x 1.2m



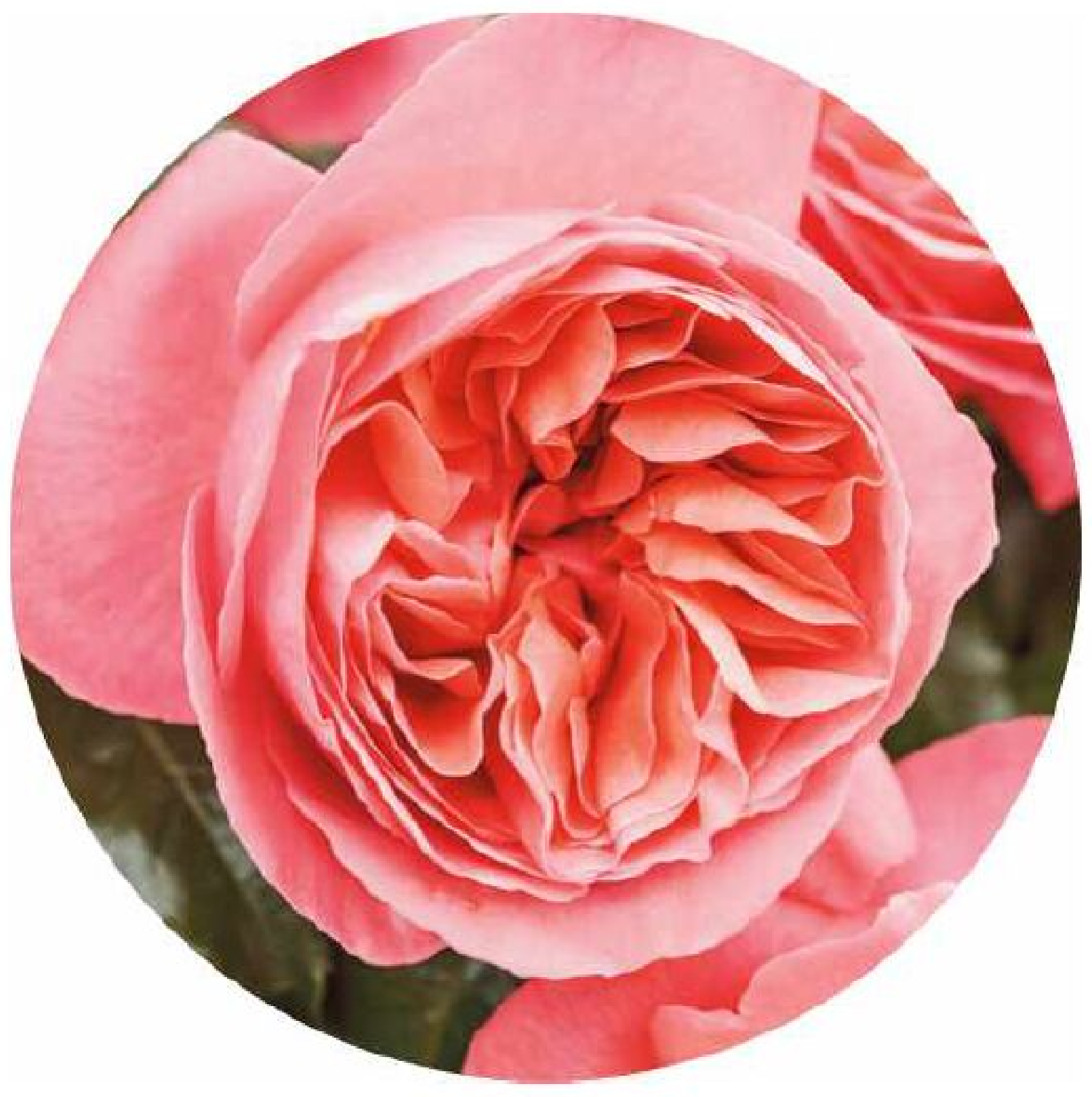
FRUIT SCENTED

'Simply the Best'

A healthy hybrid tea rose with large, richly-coloured apricot blooms. Its young foliage is tinted red.

Flowers June to November

H x S 1.2m x 1m



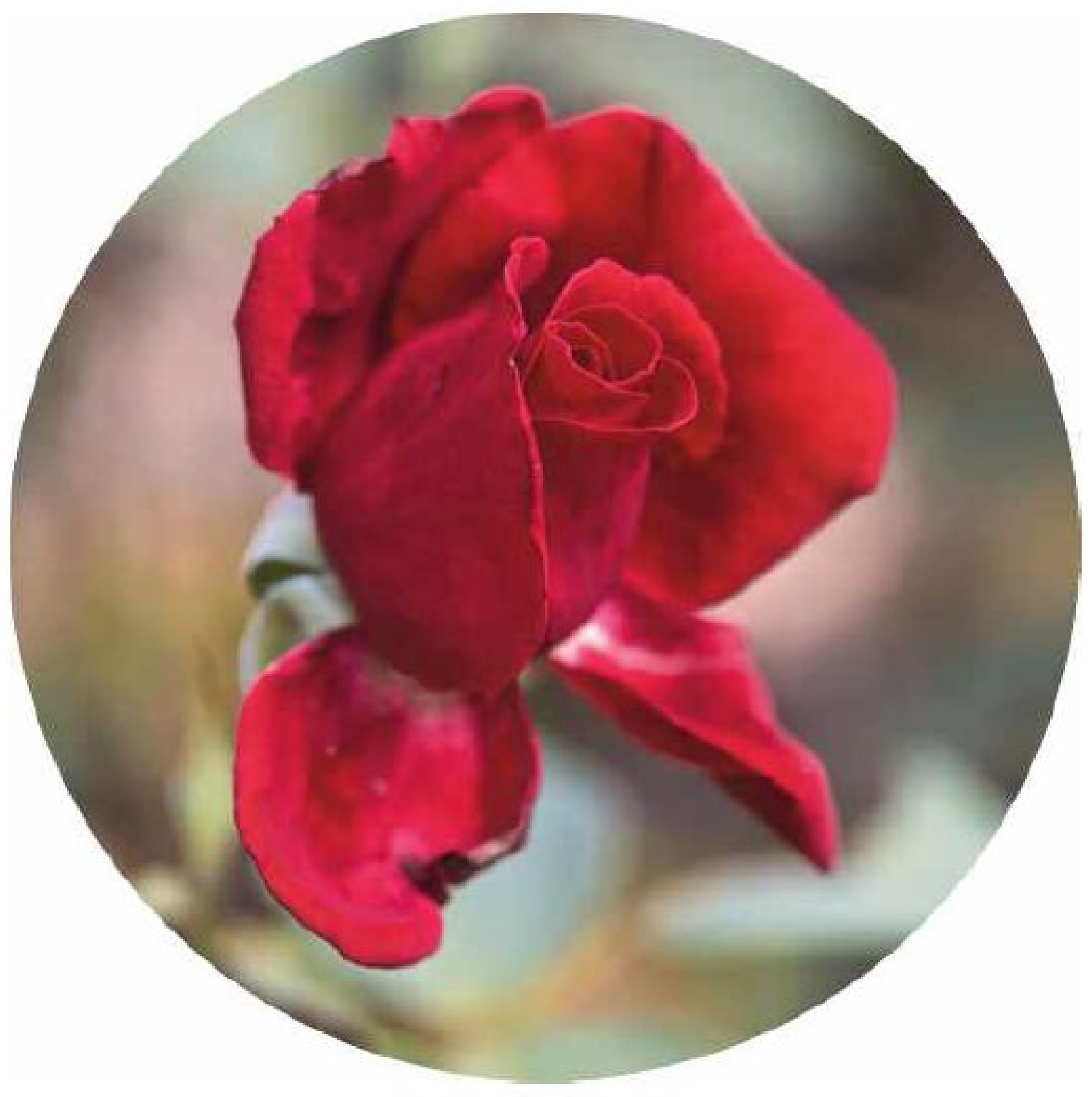
FRUIT SCENTED

'Special Anniversary'

This hybrid tea produces its large, cupped blooms all summer. It also offers good disease resistance.

Flowers July to September

H x S 85cm x 60cm



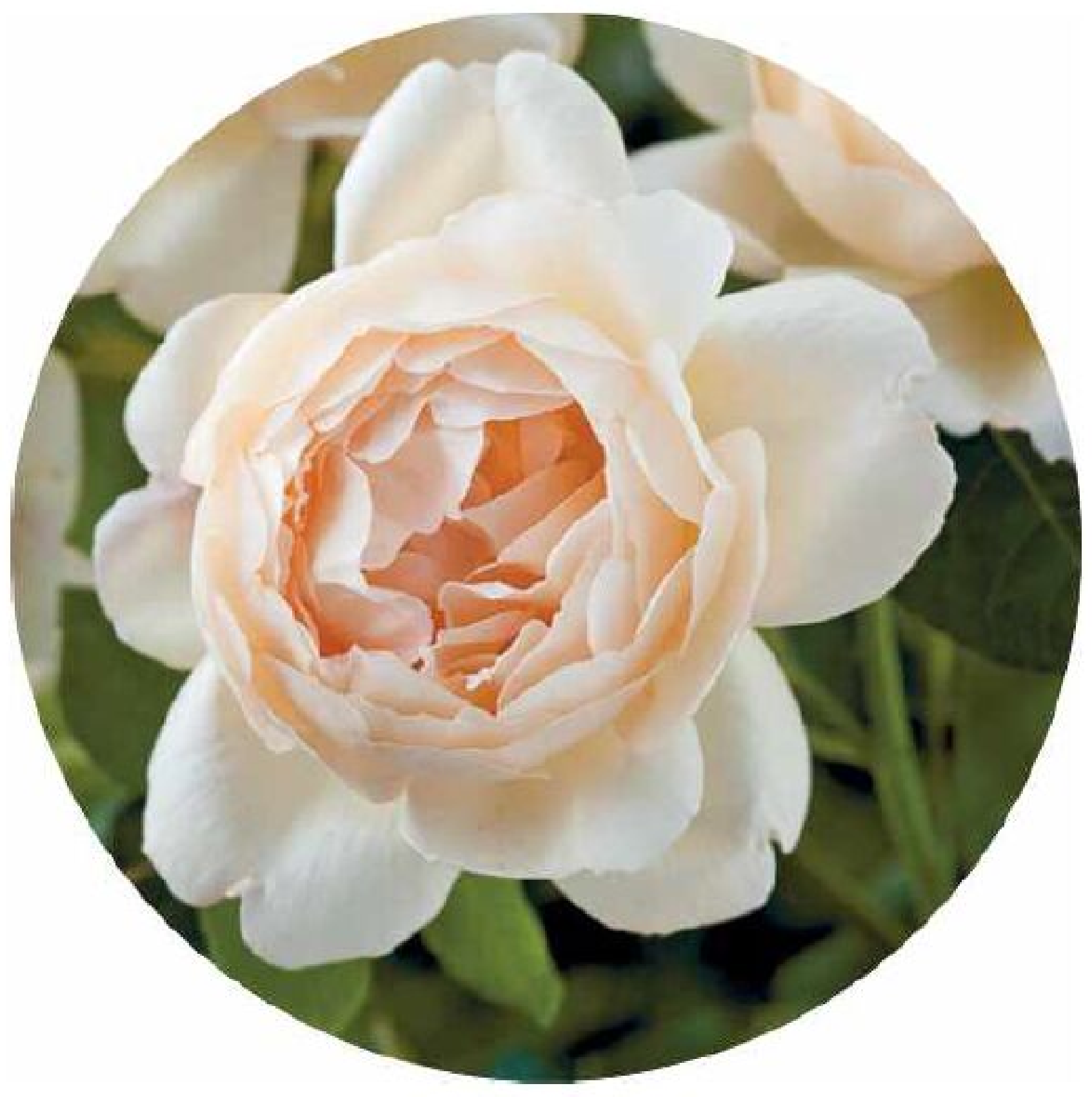
TEA SCENTED

'Deep Secret'

A superb hybrid tea, great for cutting, with elegant dark buds and sumptuous, velvety red blooms.

Flowers July to November

H x S 1m x 50cm



MUSK SCENTED

'Wollerton Old Hall'

Red buds open to form round, creamy pale pink flowers. This climbing English rose blooms all through summer.

Flowers June to October

H x S 3.5m x 1m

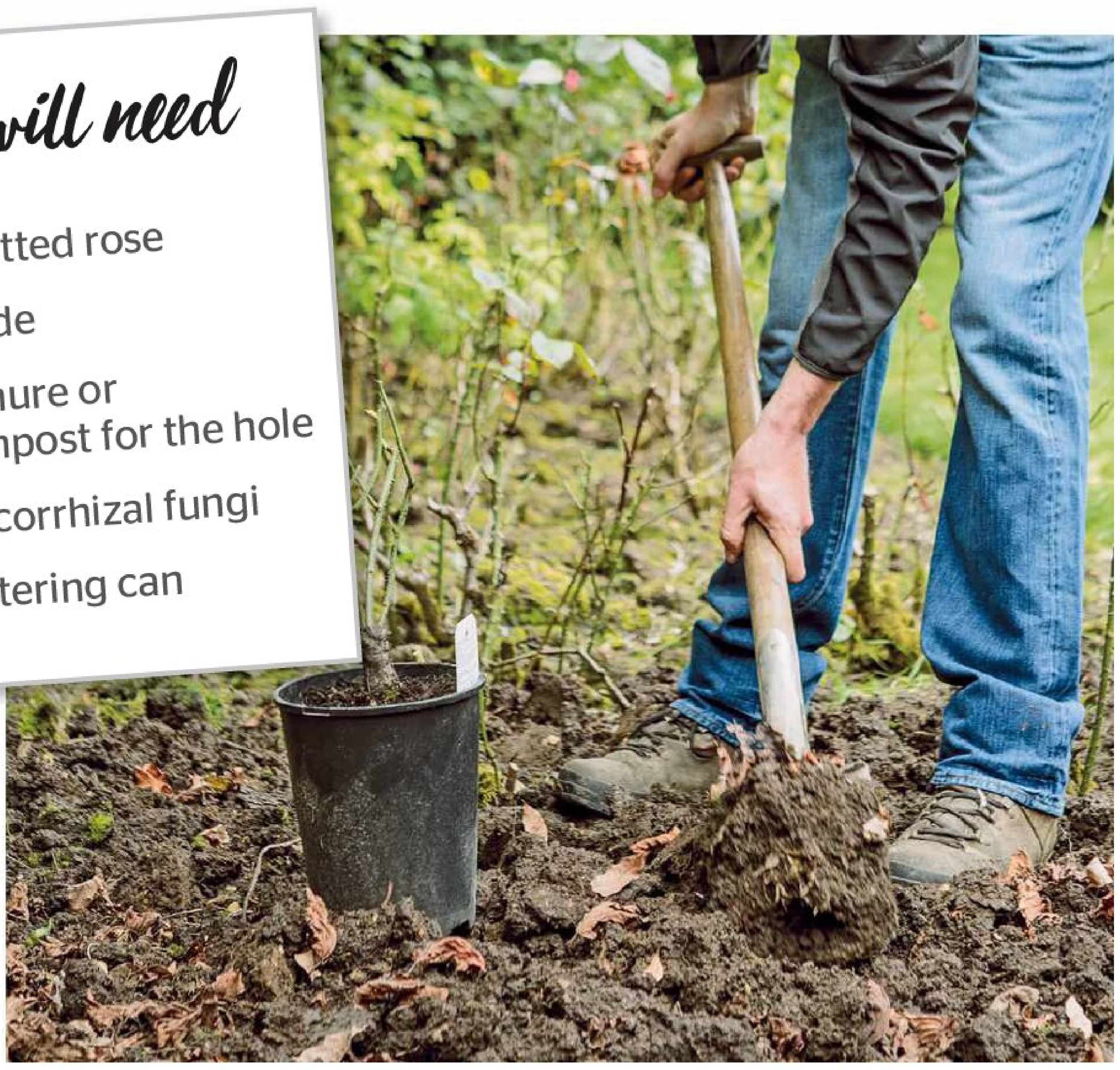
HOW TO

Plant a potted rose

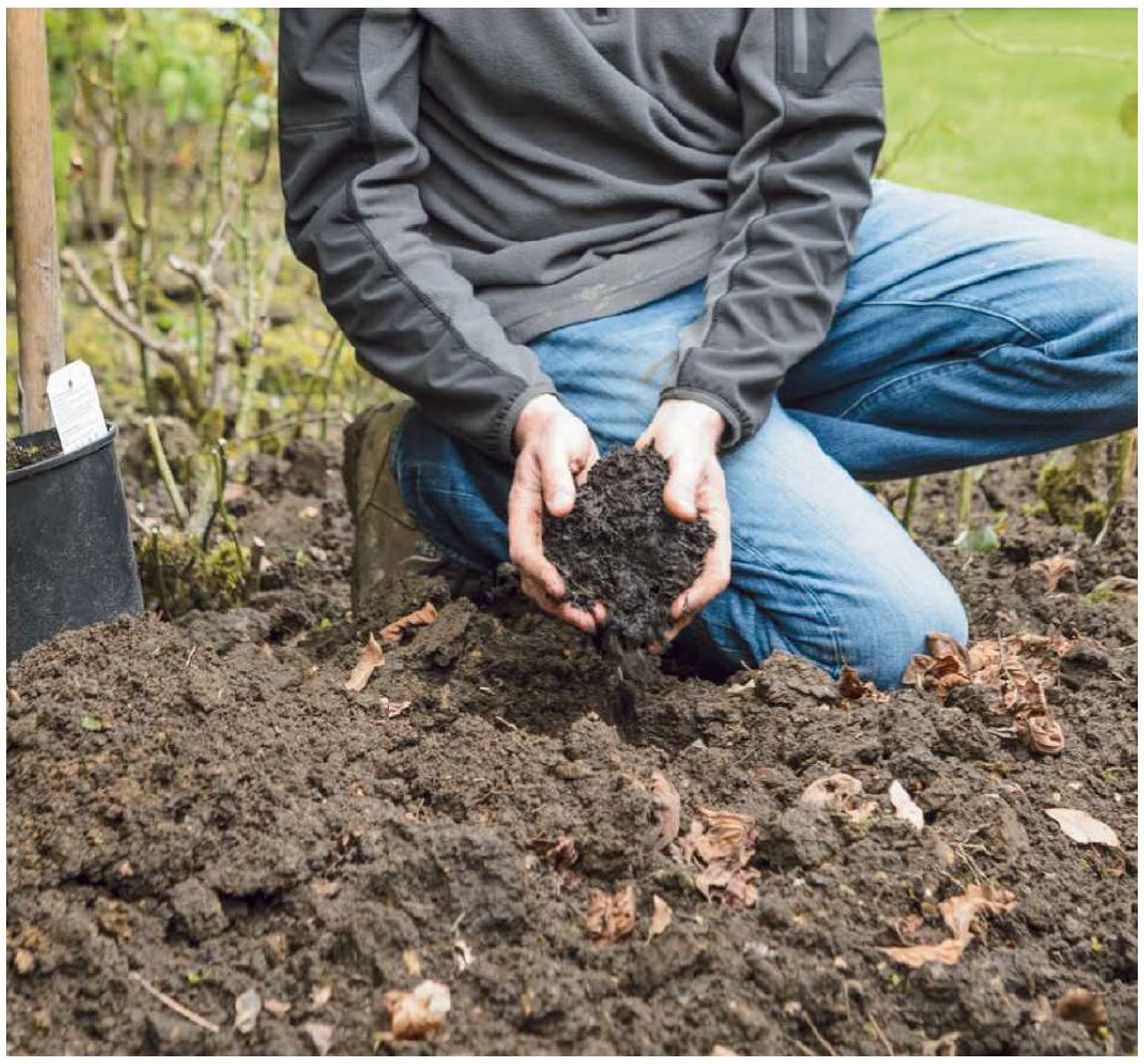
Potted roses can be planted all year round. Choose a site that isn't too windy, with fertile soil. Avoid soil that's been used to grow roses, to help prevent disease. If you have to use the same growing space, replace all the soil or add mycorrhizal fungi. Give a slow-release feed in spring and only lightly prune in the first year.

You will need

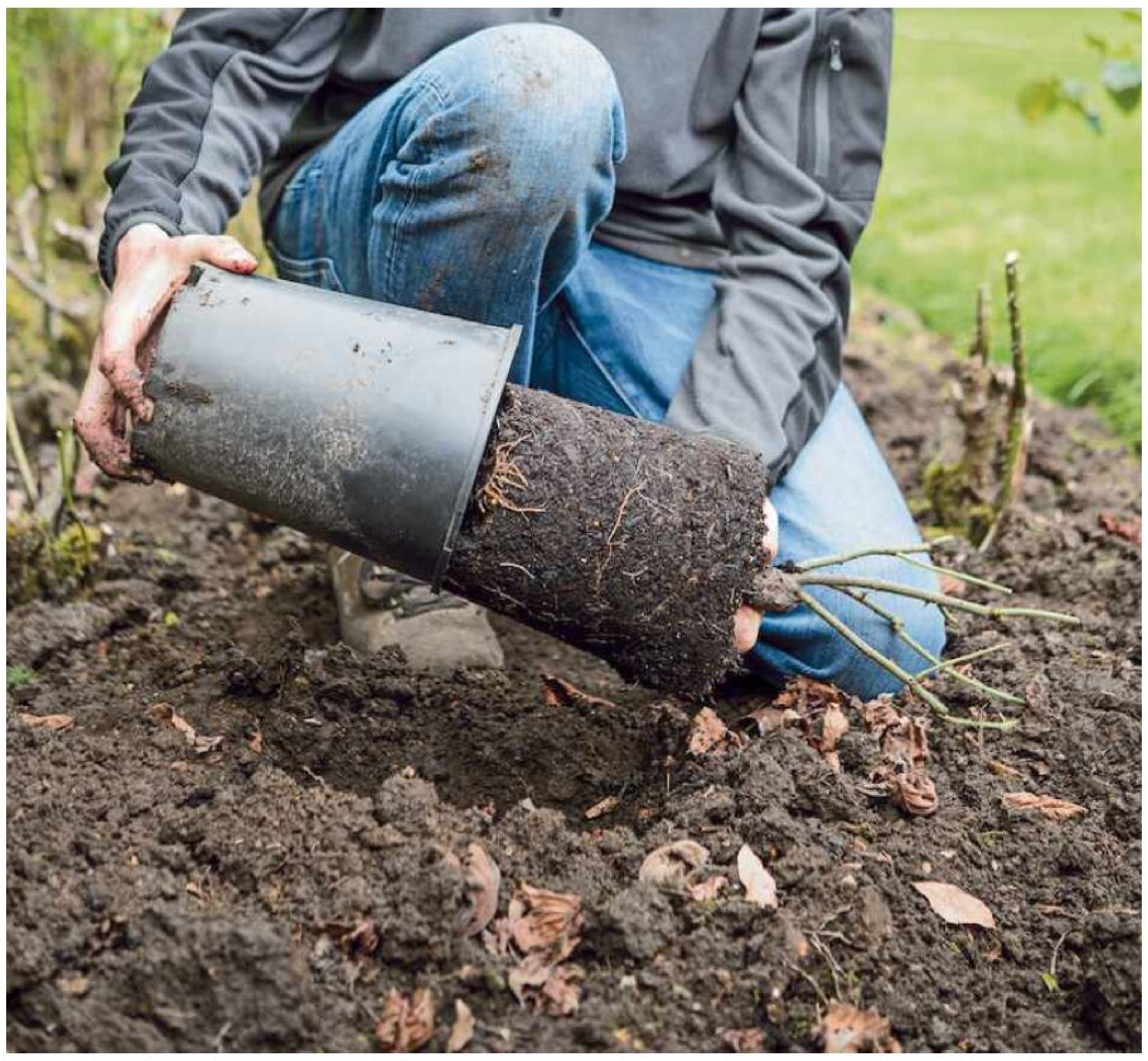
- ☐ A potted rose
- ☐ Spade
- ☐ Manure or compost for the hole
- ☐ Mycorrhizal fungi
- ☐ Watering can



1 Choose a sunny poisition for your new rose and make sure you have enough space for it to grow to its maximum size, then dig a hole twice as big as the rootball of the rose.



2 Add well-rotted compost or well-rotted farmyard manure to the bottom of the planting hole, then mix it in well, to improve soil fertility and help it to hold on to moisture.



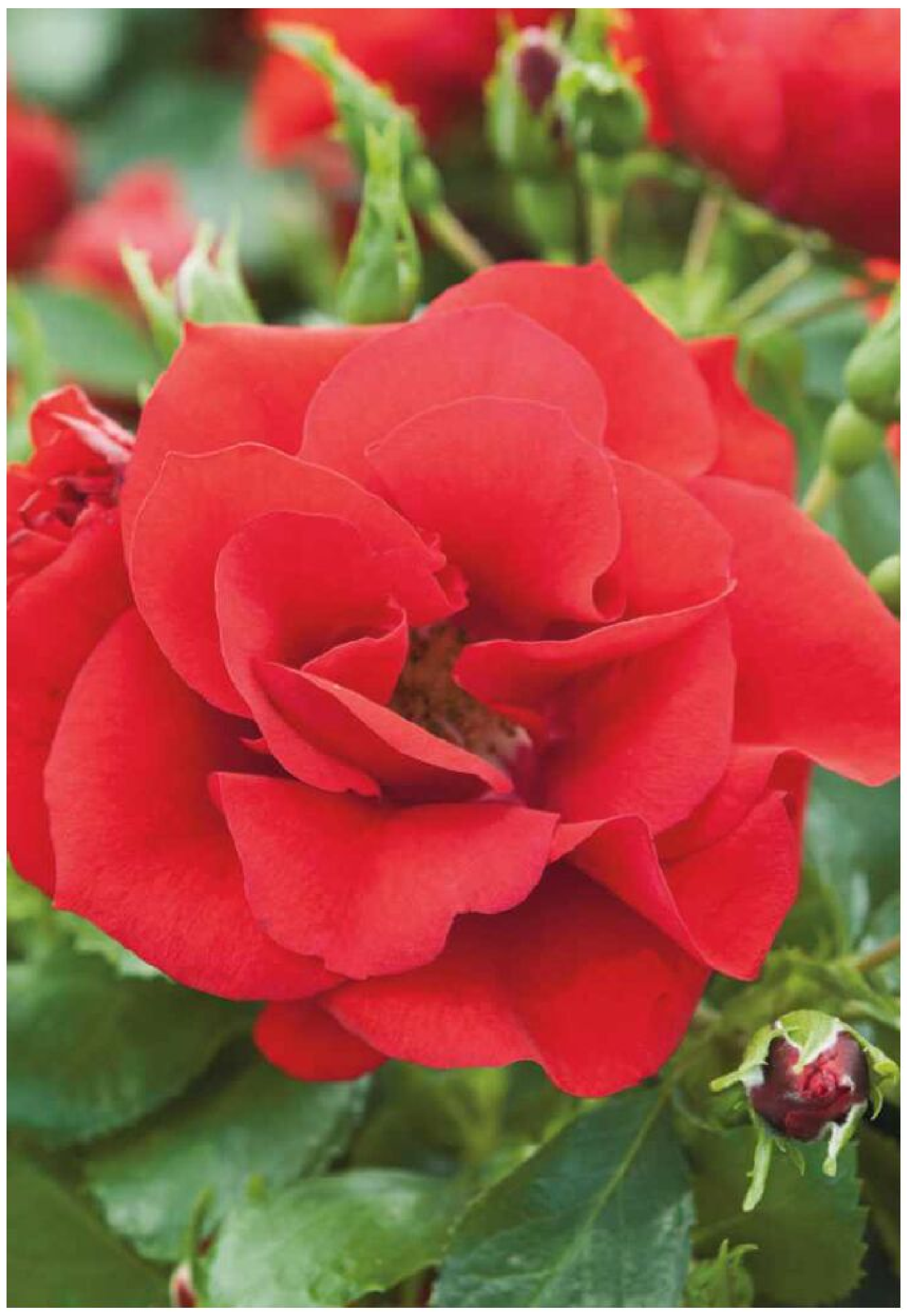
3 Remove plant, sprinkling mycorrhizal fungi over the roots. Place in the hole with the graft union at the same level as the soil surface. Fill in the hole and gently firm down.

4 Water well to settle the soil around the roots – this is important when planting anything new. Make sure the soil doesn't dry out while the rose establishes itself.

'Great Expectations' is a floribunda rose with fully double, scented blooms

Floribunda roses

Floribundas are robust, disease-resistant roses, popular for their clusters of flowers that appear over a long season. Floribundas are produced by crossing hybrid tea roses and polyantha roses – they are usually smaller and bushier than hybrid tea roses, and more upright than polyanthas. These roses are not known for their scent but they make up for it in colour, with varieties that come in a kaleidoscope of shades.

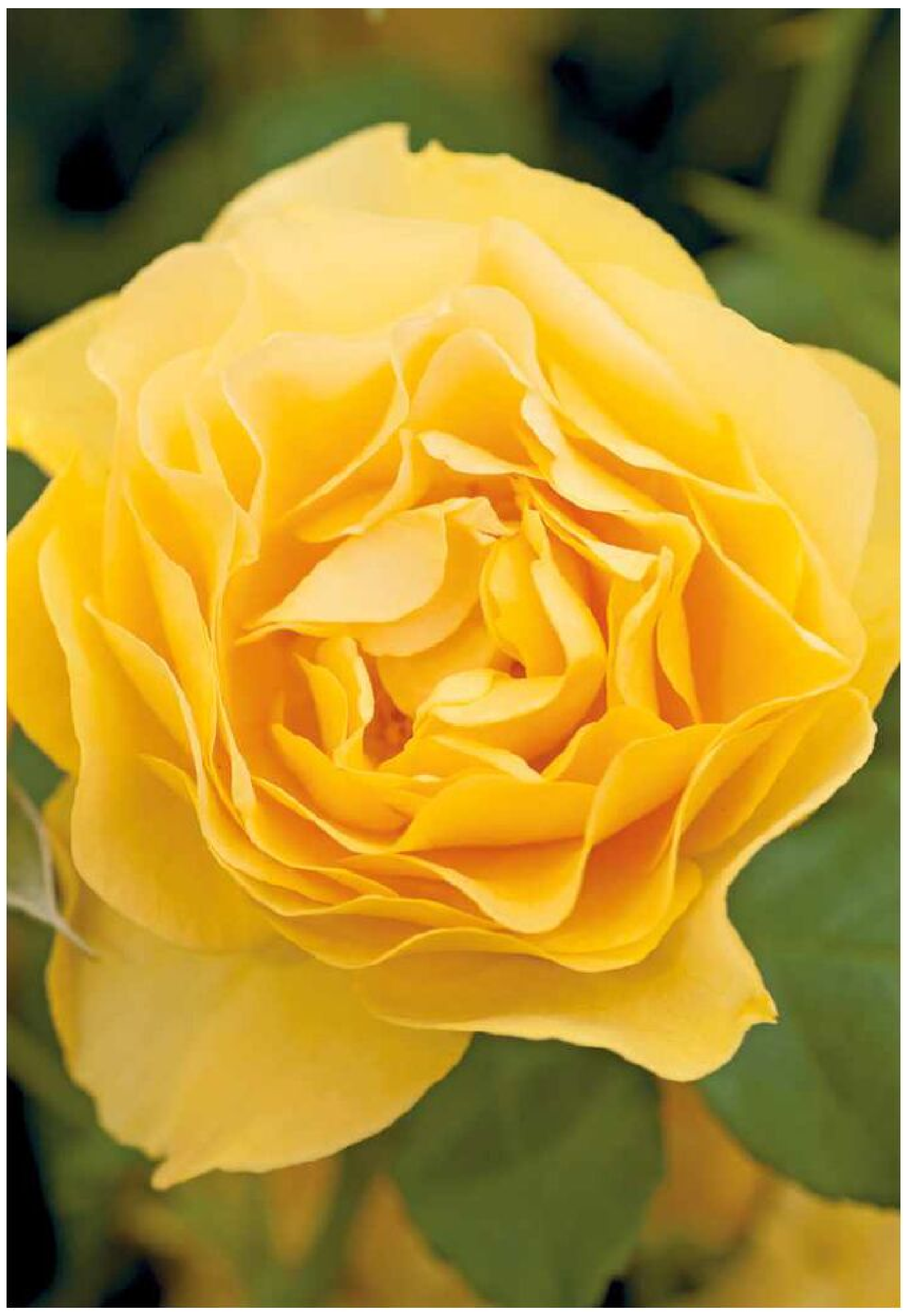


'Moment in Time'

This compact, repeat-flowering floribunda bears fragrant semi-double blooms in a rich scarlet which stands out beautifully among dark, glossy foliage. Grow at the front of a border or in a container.

Flowers June to September

H x S 60cm x 50cm

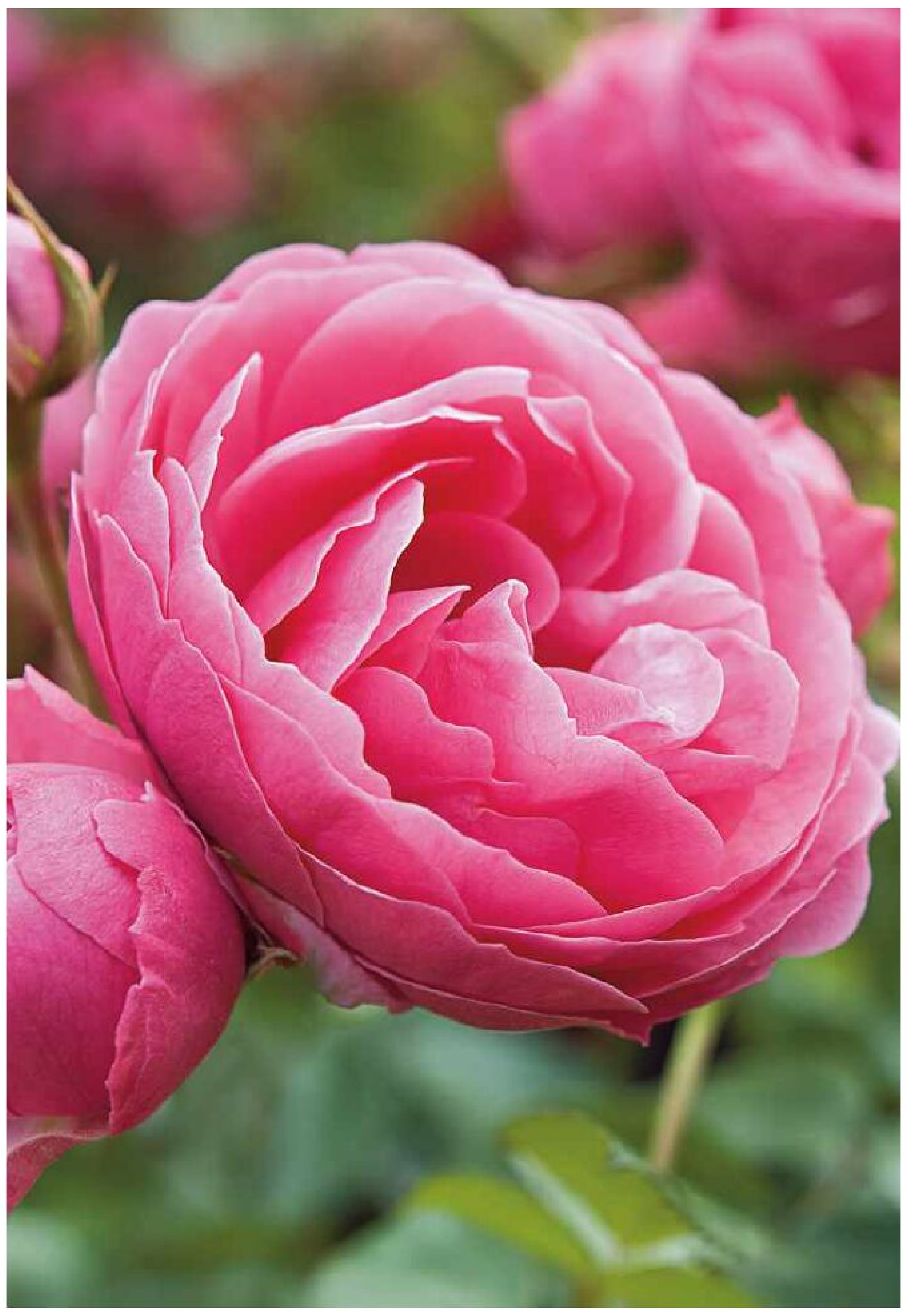


'Absolutely Fabulous'

A compact floribunda rose that has a distinctive liquorice fragrance and good disease resistance. It produces beautiful clusters of old-fashioned primrose-yellow flowers well into autumn.

Flowers June to November

H x S 1m x 1m



'Pomponella'

This variety has a good resistance to disease and small dark pink flowers with a delicate fragrance. It reaches a height of just 80cm. Plant it towards the front of a sunny herbaceous border or in a pot on the patio.

Flowers June to September

H x S 80cm x 60cm

Top tip

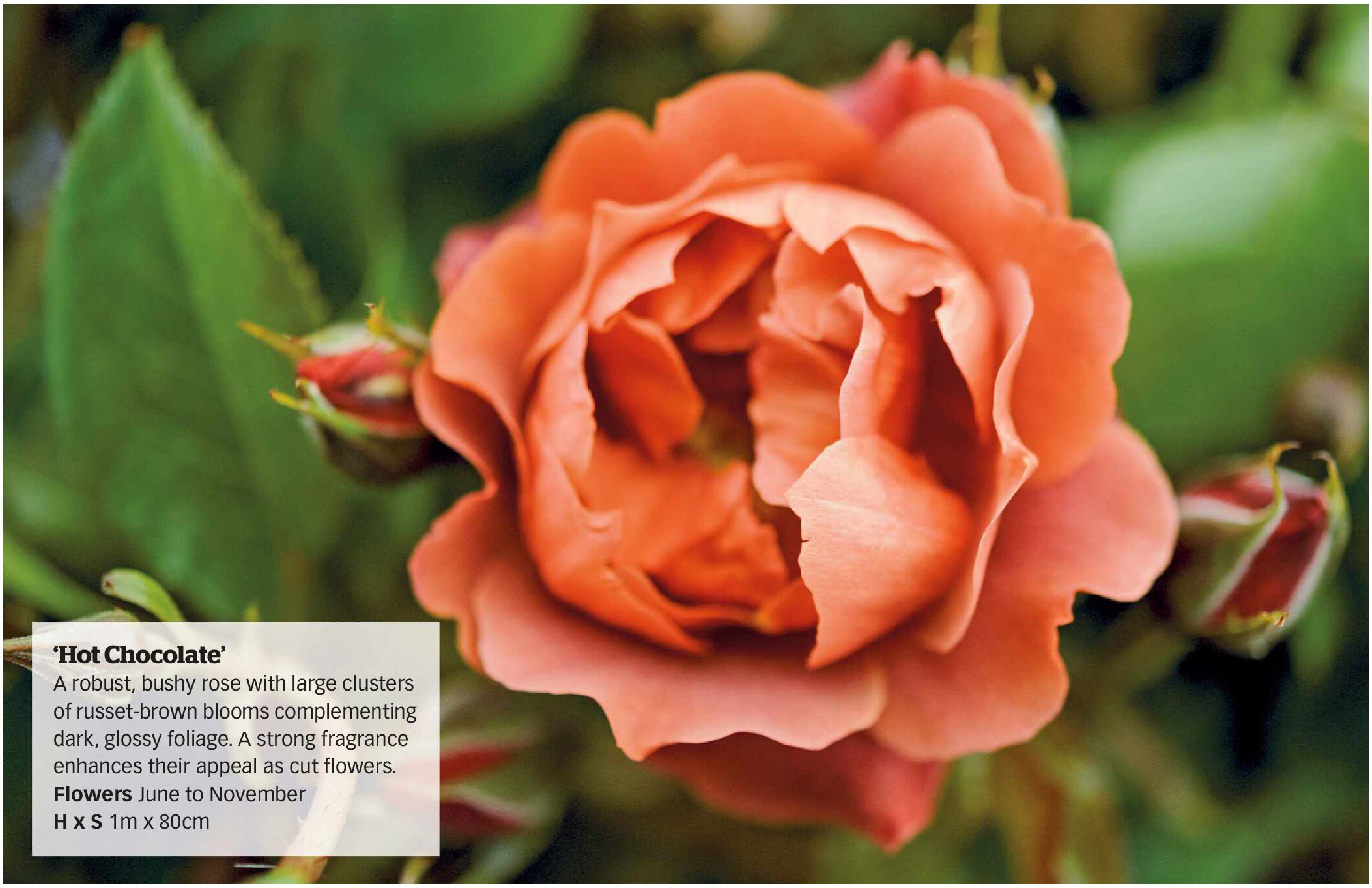
Floribunda roses are repeat flowering, so deadheading them will help extend the flowering season.

'York Minster'
The white blooms of this attractive rose make it useful for setting off more colourful flowers in the border, but it can be grown on its own in a large pot. It has a heady, spicy fragrance.
Flowers July to September
H x S 1m x 80cm

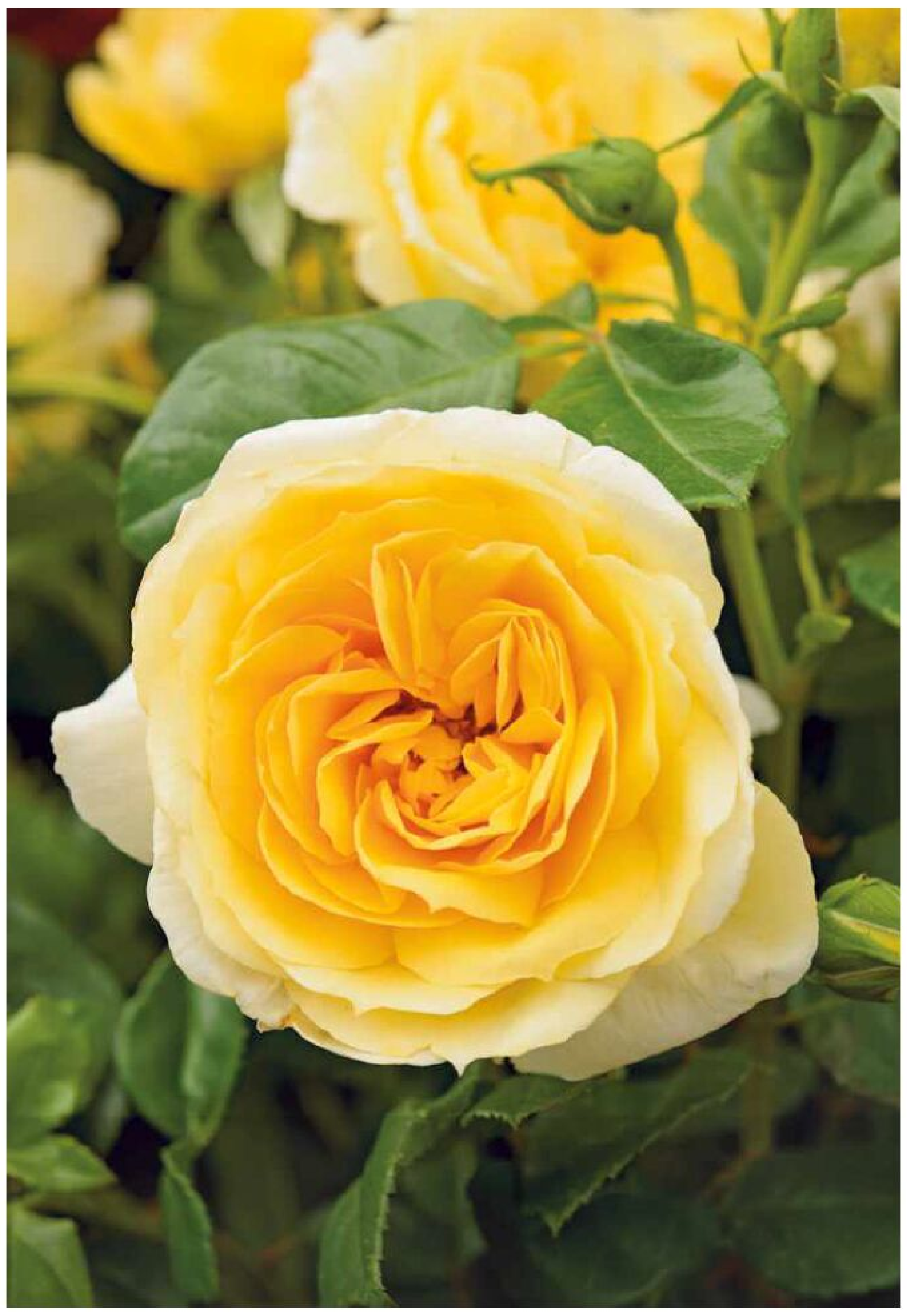
Tip

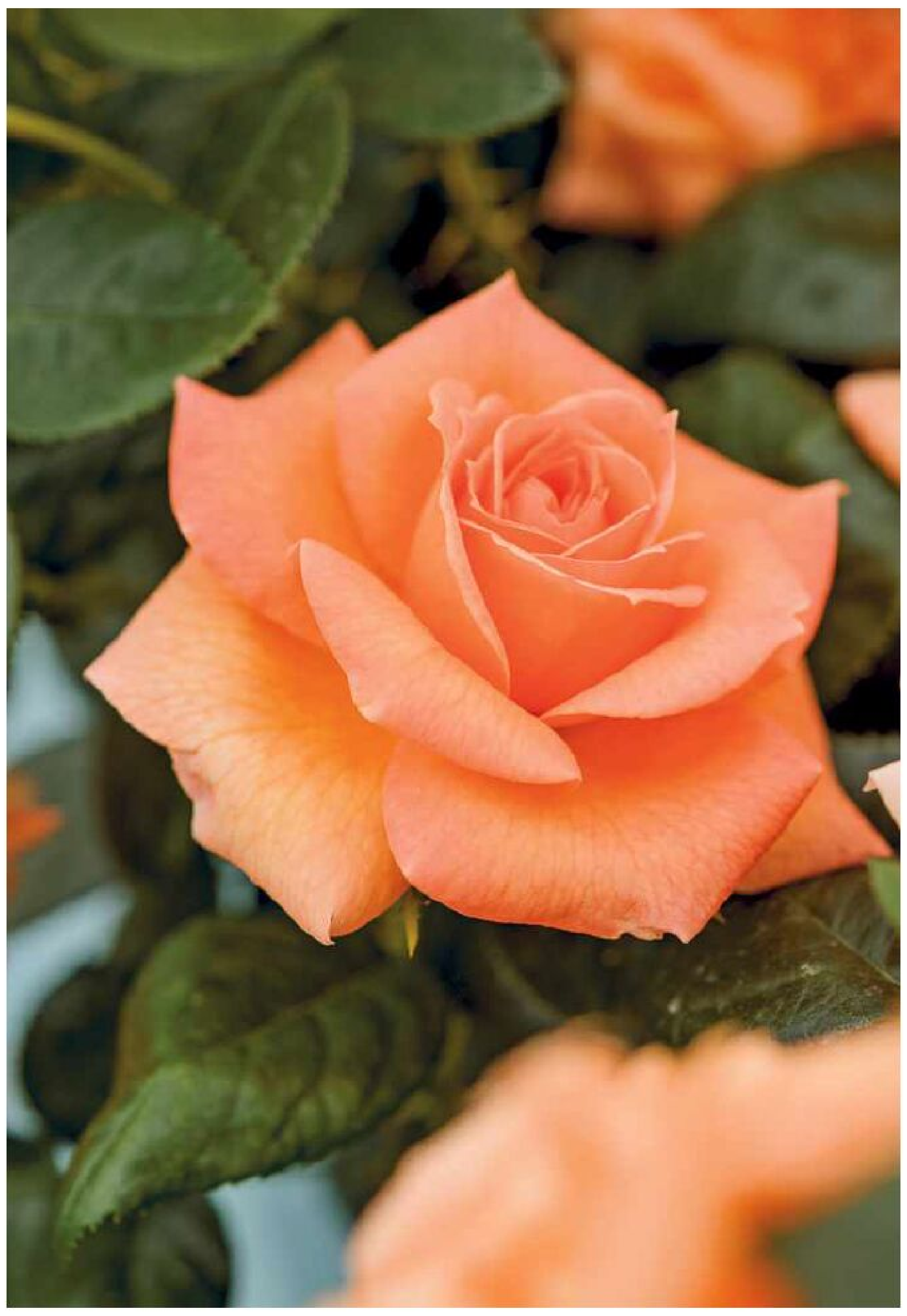
Floribundas will do well in most well-drained soils. Give them lots of space as they are vigorous, with strong roots.

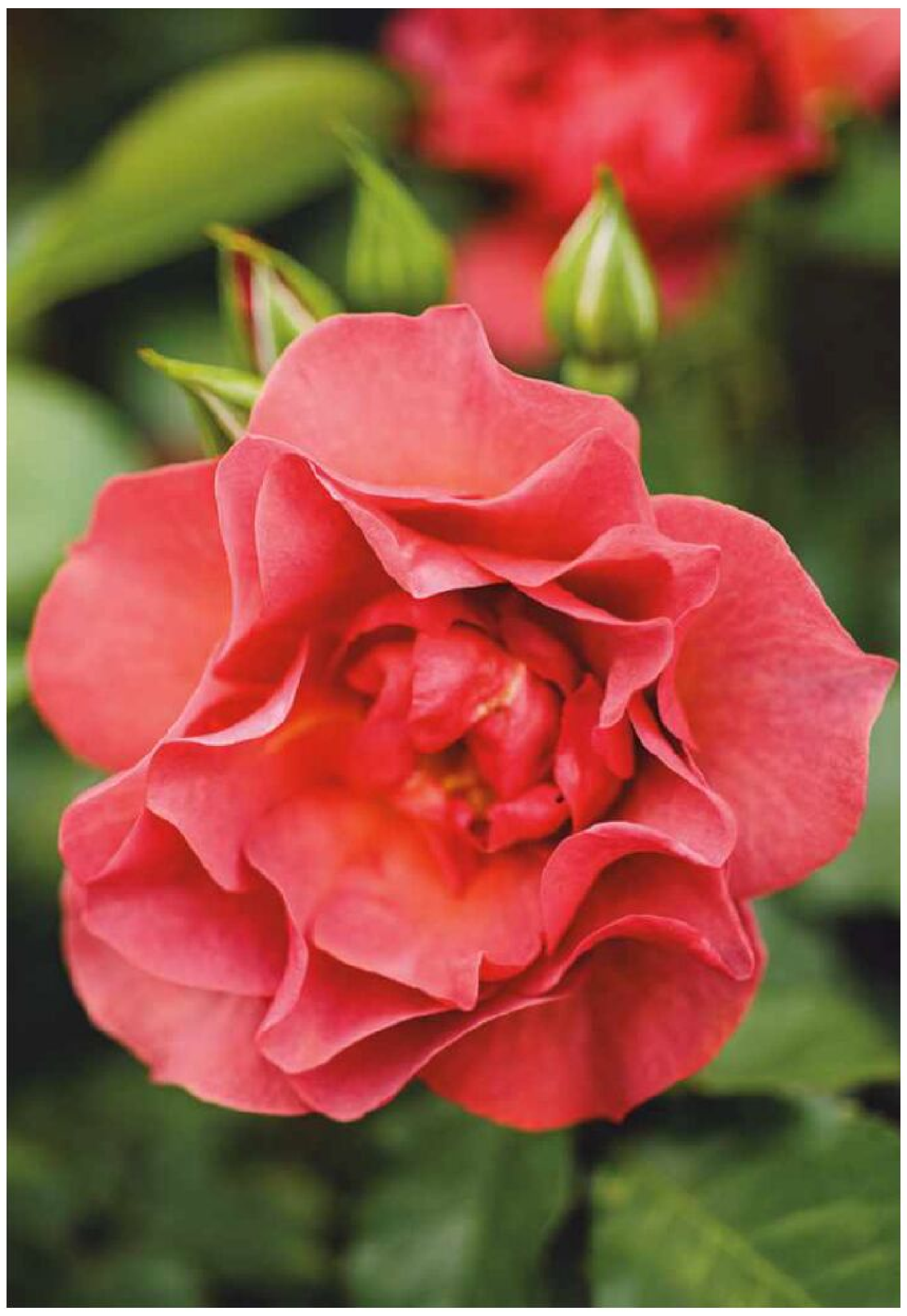
'Joie de Vivre'
Awarded Rose of the Year back in 2011 this, compact variety bears double cream-pink flowers from summer to autumn. Its compact nature makes it ideal for the front of a border or pots.
Flowers June to October
H x S 60cm x 60cm



'Hot Chocolate'
A robust, bushy rose with large clusters of russet-brown blooms complementing dark, glossy foliage. A strong fragrance enhances their appeal as cut flowers.
Flowers June to November
H x S 1m x 80cm







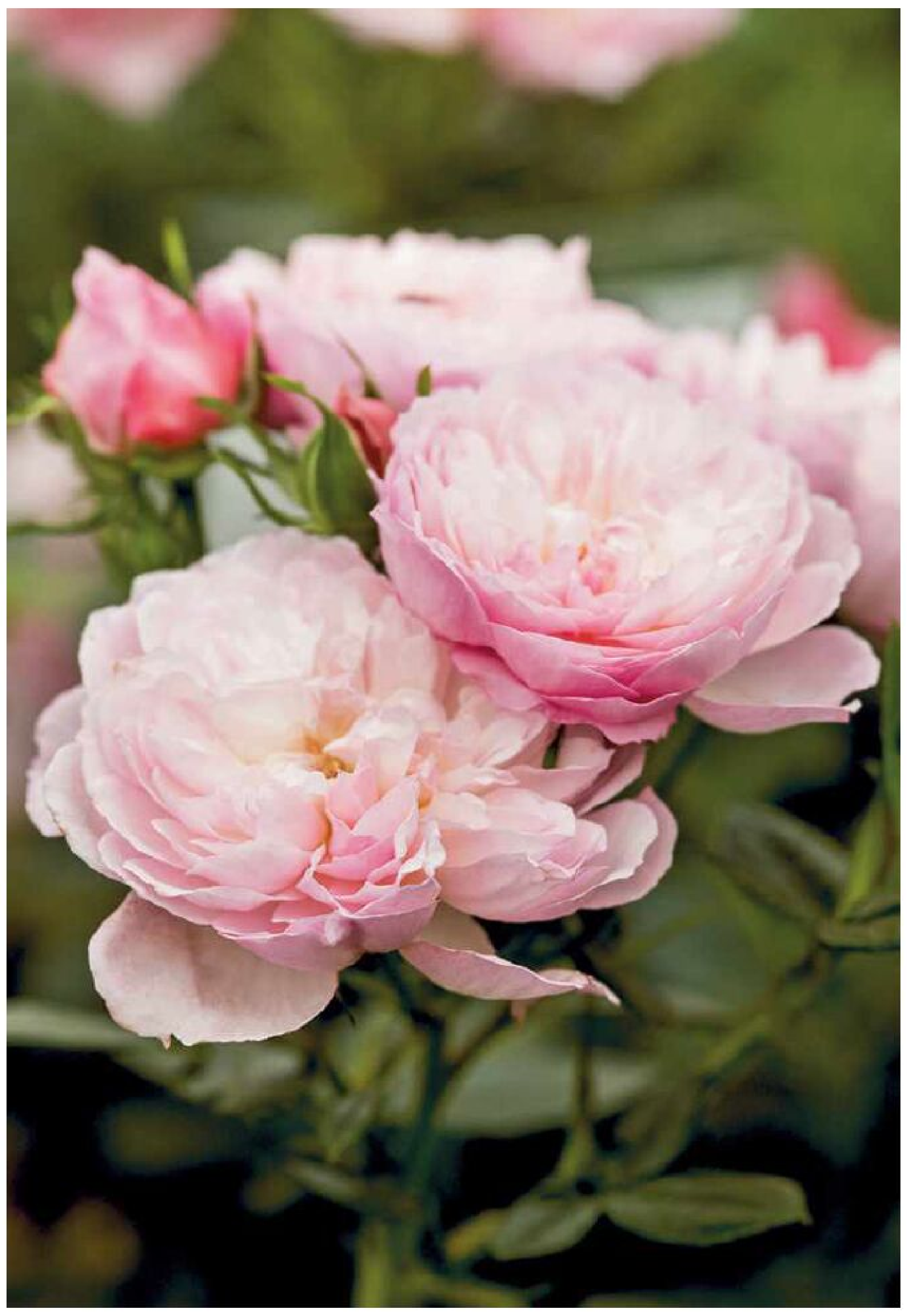
'Togmeister'
With its butter-yellow flowers, this variety is great for injecting colour into a gloomy area of the garden. Perfect for a small space, it's ideal for growing at the front of the border but is also well-suited to pots.
Flowers June to September
H x S 75cm x 75cm

'Lady Marmalade'
Peony-like rosy-orange blooms are borne in large clusters and have a spicy fragrance. Voted Rose of the Year 2014, this variety has excellent resistance to diseases and provides a long season of colour throughout summer.
Flowers June to October
H x S 90cm x 70cm

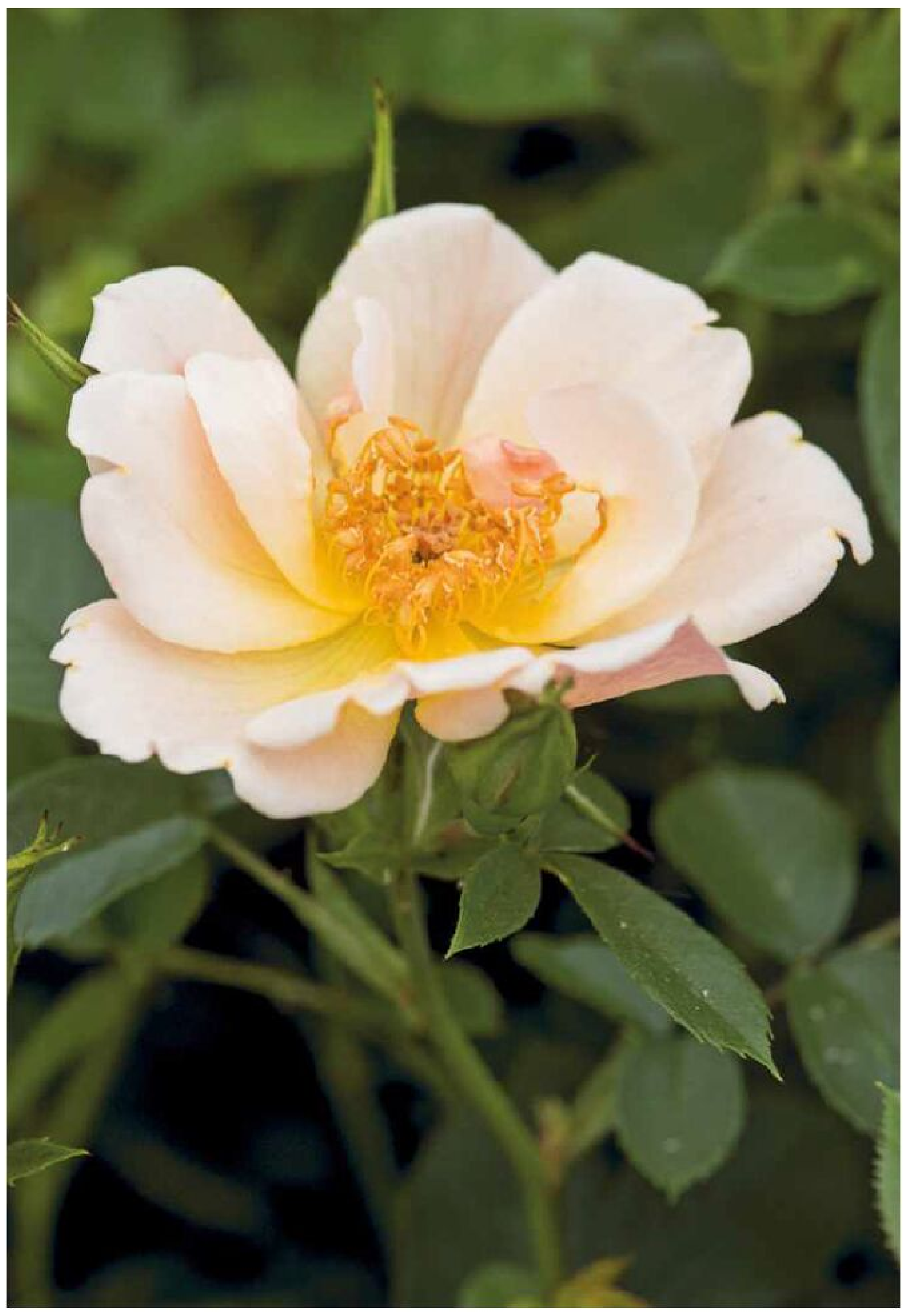
'Celebration Time'
This is a disease-resistant rose with dusky red flowers that have a hint of lavender, and yellow stamens. Grow in a mixed border or a container and keep deadheading promptly to encourage more flowers.
Flowers June to October
H x S 90cm x 75cm

Patio roses

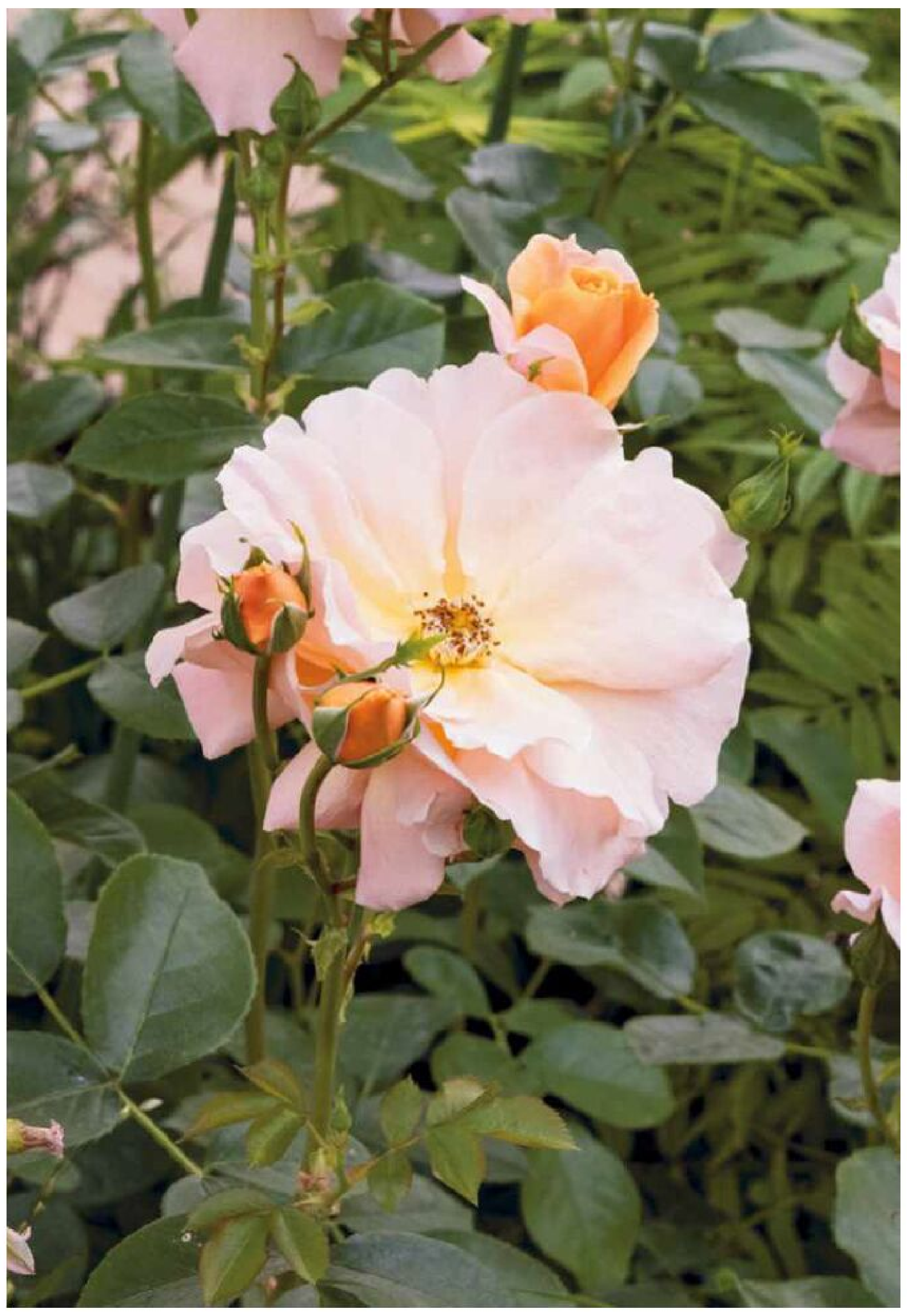
When grown in pots, roses are great for bringing colour and scent right up to your door. Choose shorter-growing bush varieties, or 'patio roses'. These are compact plants that flower continuously through summer. The flowers are borne in clusters, similar to floribunda roses. It's best to grow patio roses in good-quality soil-based compost mixed with multi-purpose compost – keep them well watered and give a liquid feed once a week during the growing season.



'Queen's London Child'
If you're looking for an upright, compact rose with a strong scent, this is the one for you. The flowers are huge and will fill your patio with a powerfully sweet fragrance on a summer's day.
Flowers June to September
H x S 60cm x 45cm



'Happy Days'
The semi-double apricot-coloured flowers on this repeat-flowering rose have a lovely musk fragrance. The plant forms a neat, attractive mound, making it an ideal choice for a container.
Flowers June to September
H x S 60cm x 80cm



'Fragrant Delight'
This very neat and compact bush gets smothered in sweetly-scented flowers that glow with shades of salmon and coppery orange. Despite being small in stature it makes a very robust plant.
Flowers June to September
H x S 75cm x 60cm

Tip

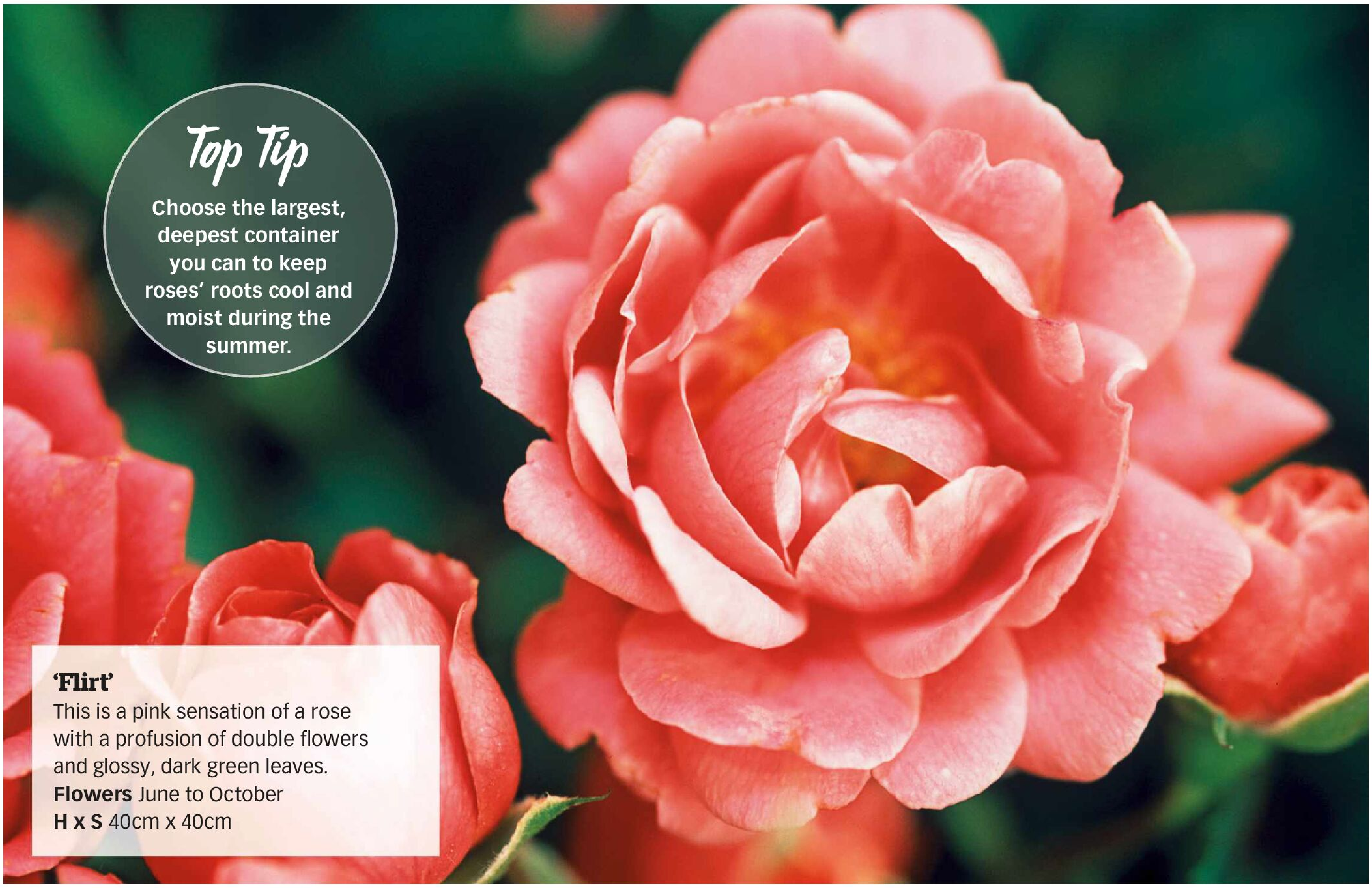
Hard-prune patio roses in spring, otherwise they will become leggy. Refresh the compost at the same time.

Miniature roses

These grow to around 30cm high and can even be grown indoors. Perfect for small gardens, pots or window boxes, they can be short-lived and are often sold alongside house plants.

Flowers May to September

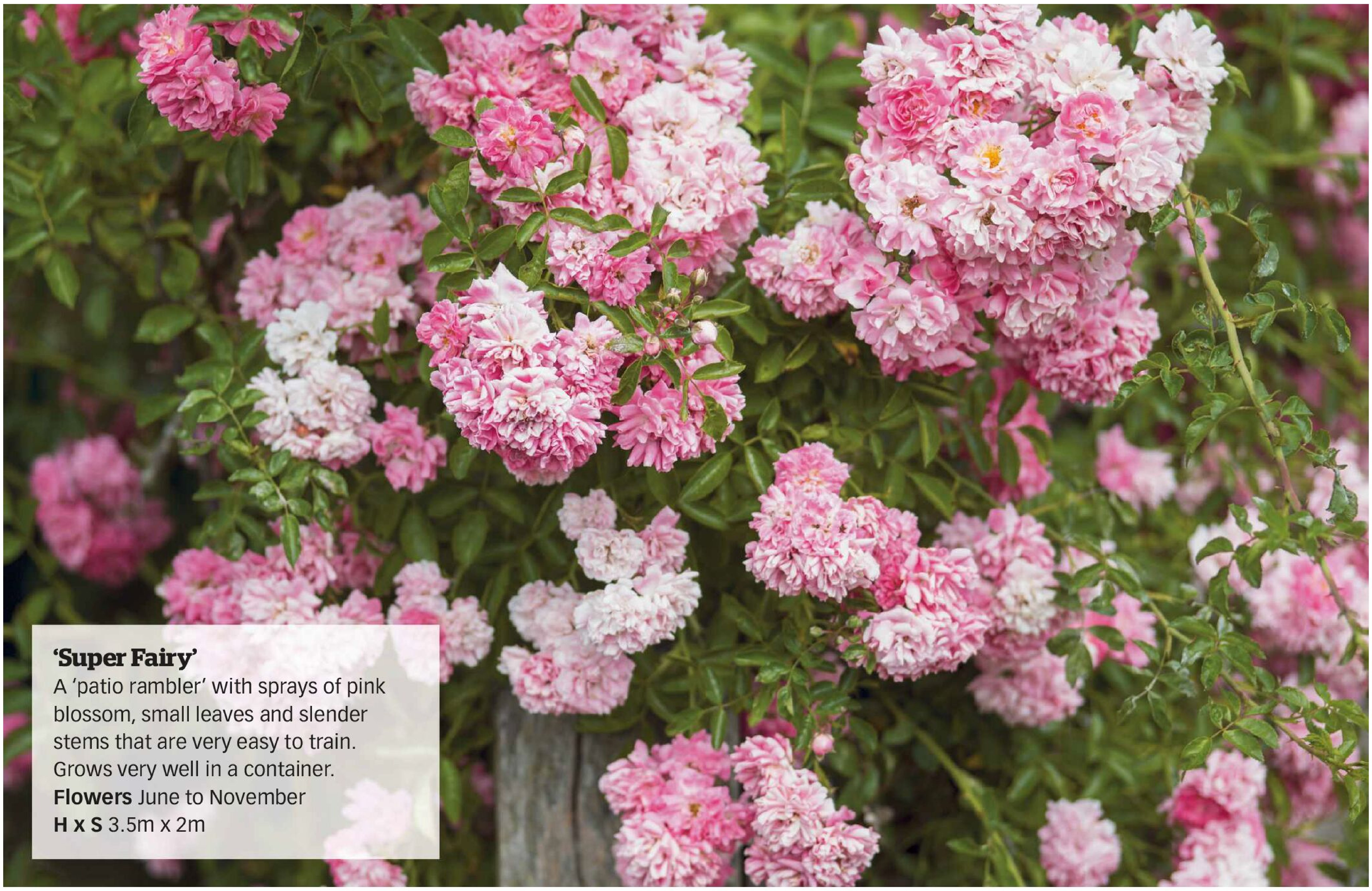
H x S 30cm x 30cm



Top Tip

Choose the largest, deepest container you can to keep roses' roots cool and moist during the summer.

'Flirt'
This is a pink sensation of a rose with a profusion of double flowers and glossy, dark green leaves.
Flowers June to October
H x S 40cm x 40cm



'Super Fairy'
A 'patio rambler' with sprays of pink blossom, small leaves and slender stems that are very easy to train. Grows very well in a container.
Flowers June to November
H x S 3.5m x 2m

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THREE OF THE SAME SHRUB ROSE

Featured rose: Olivia Rose Austin® *(Ausmixture)*

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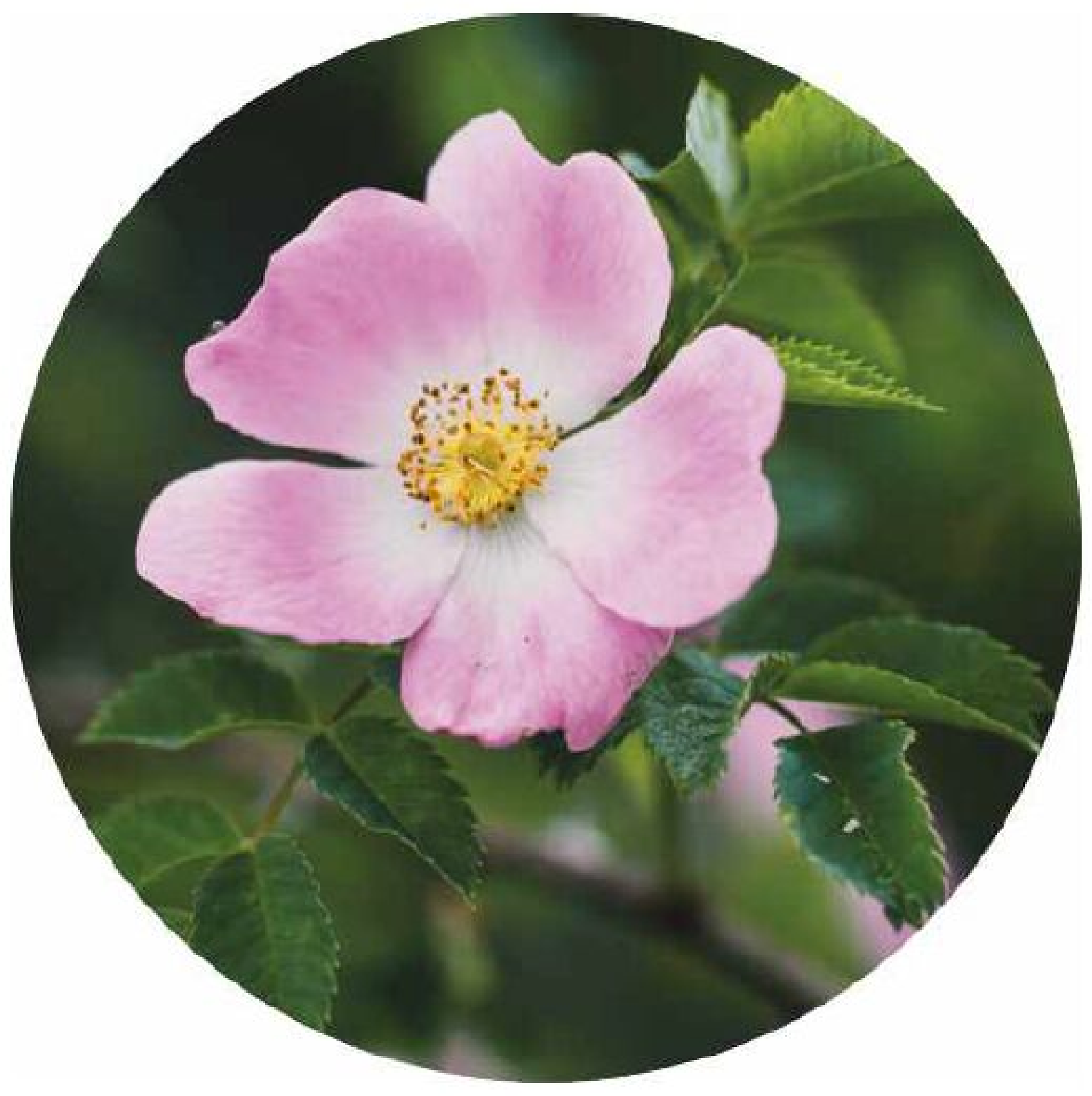
'Gertrude Jekyll' has soft pink double blooms with a strong 'old rose' fragrance

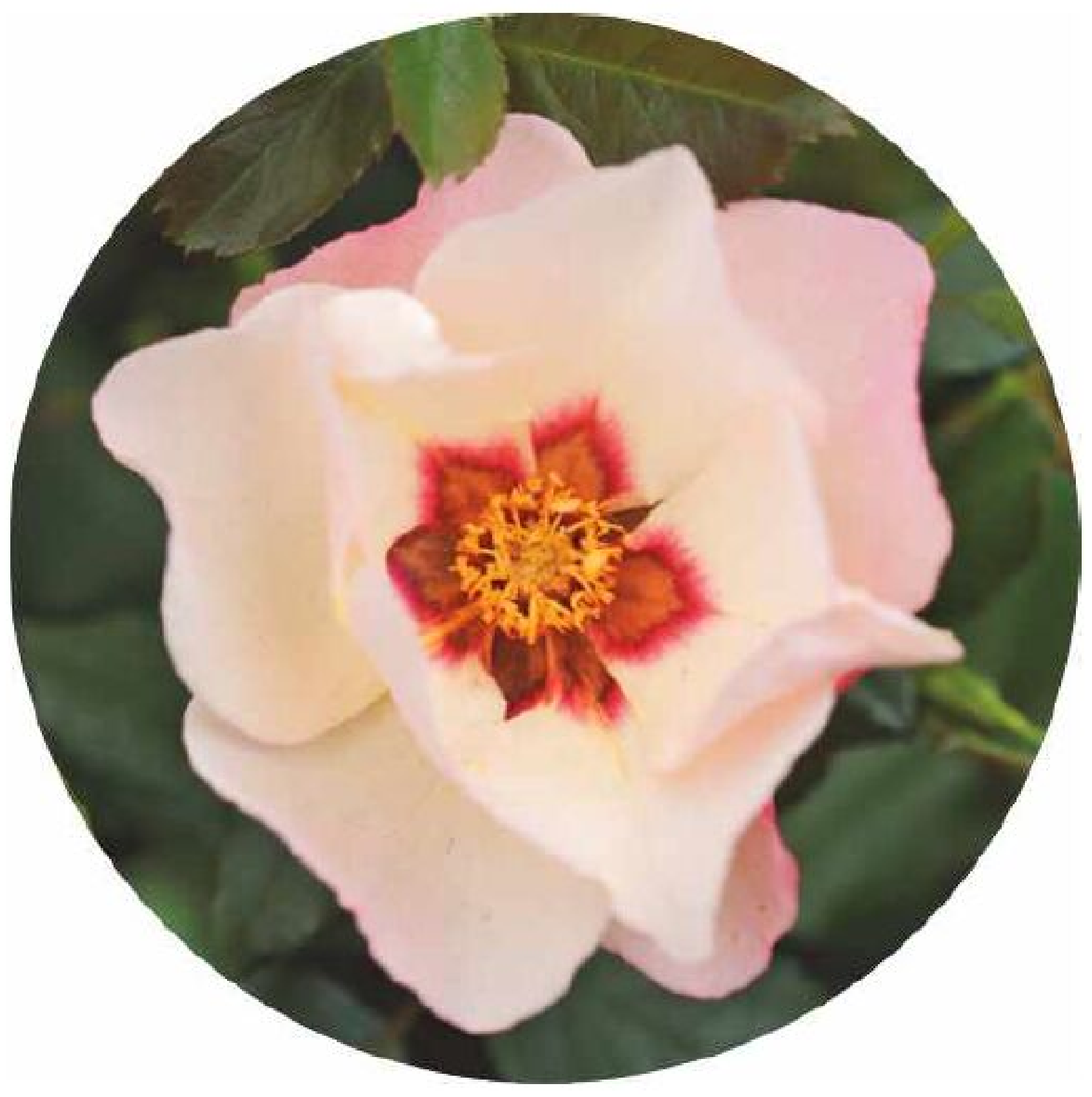
FOCUS ON

Flower shapes

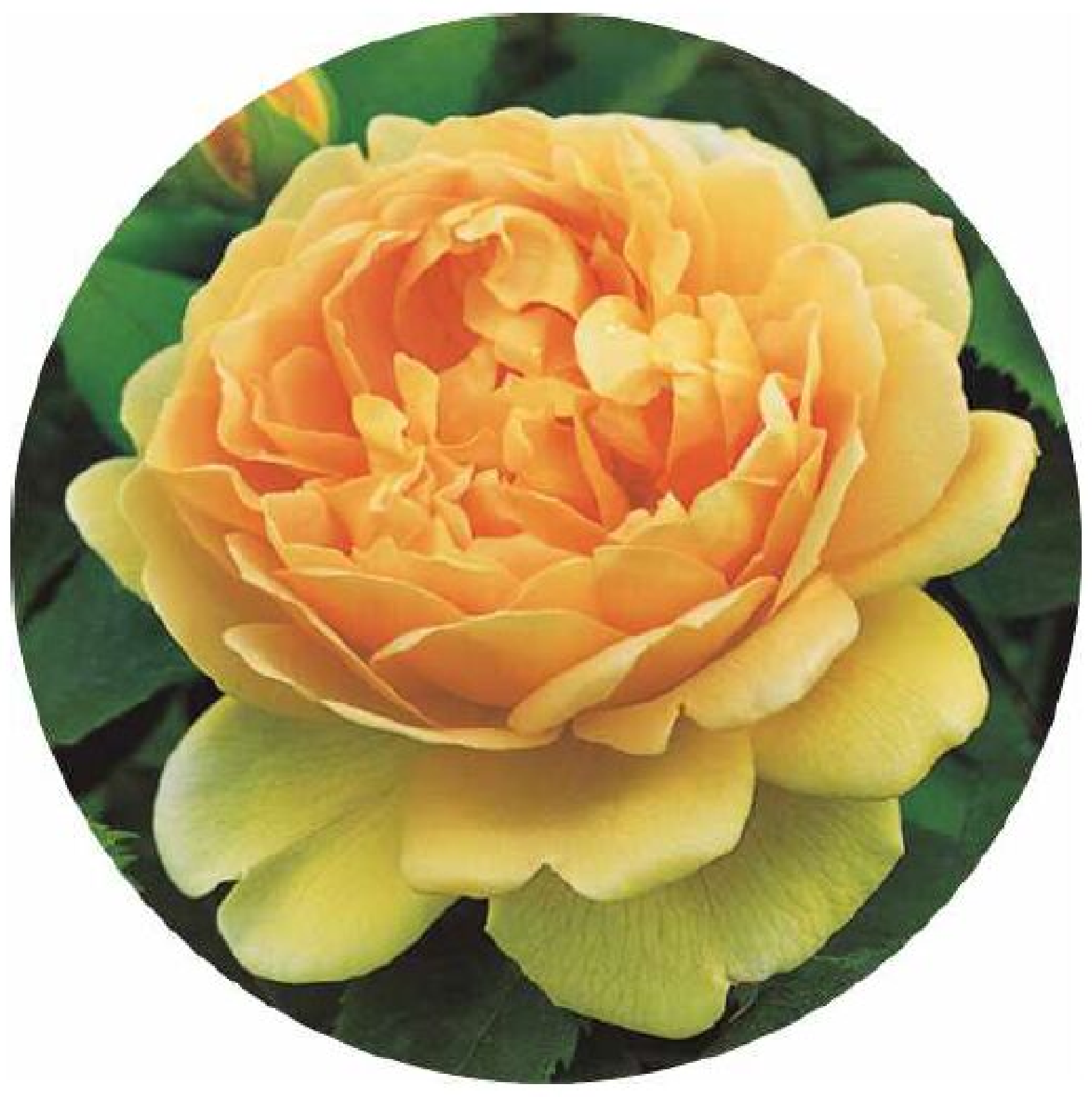
There's a huge variety of rose flower styles, from simple single roses with five petals to double blooms that can have more than 100 petals. Roses like hybrid teas have more pointed centres, whereas some of the 'old' roses have spectacular and showy pompon shapes. There are roses that form rosettes which look ruffled, as well as shallow cups, deep cups and open cups. They can have petals that curve inwards to create a more closed shape, or petals that curve outwards which opens up the flower. Those with a 'button eye' have an attractive focal point in the centre, where there are lots of small petals curved into the middle of the rose so that it looks like a button.



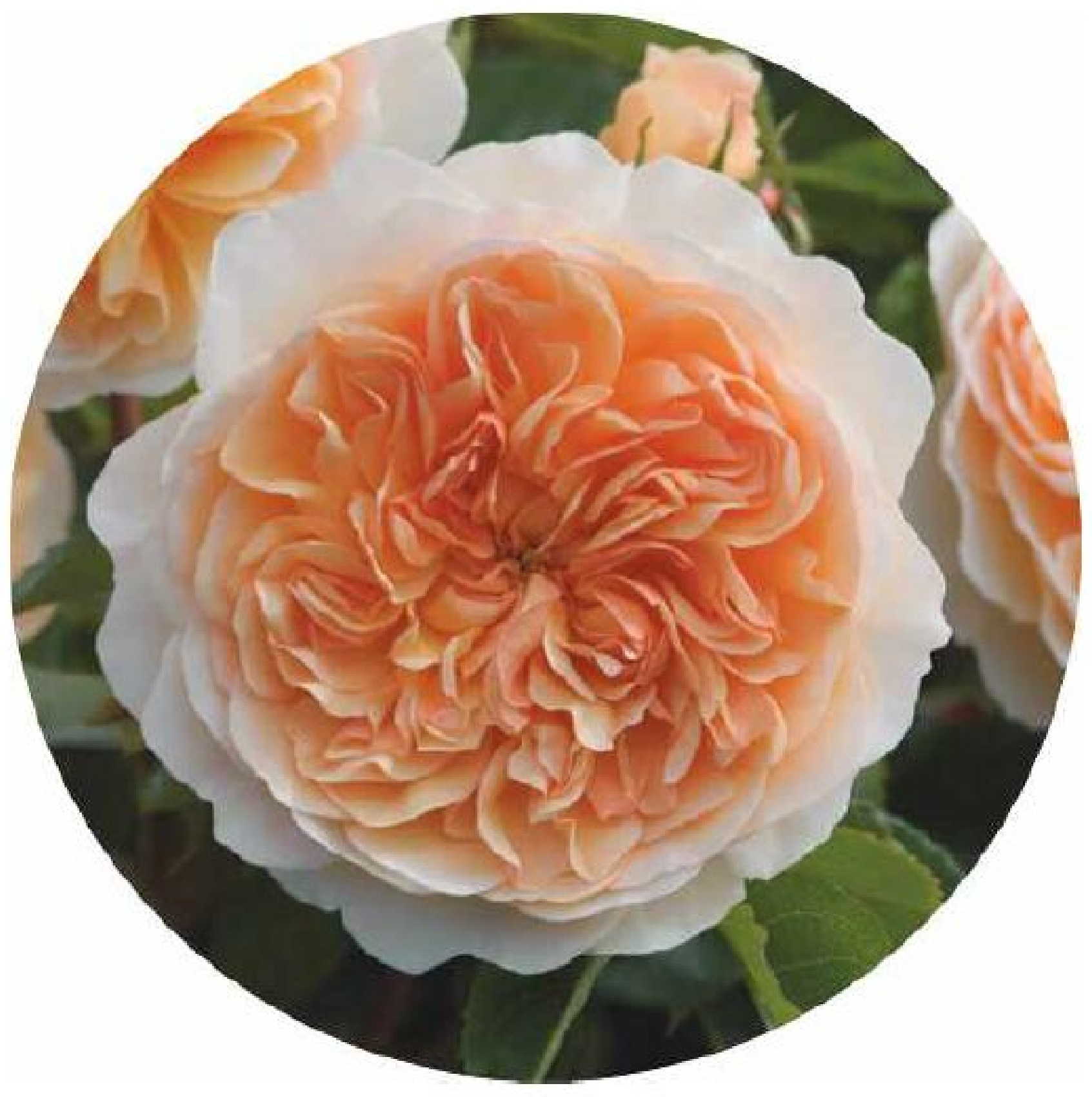
SINGLE ROSE
Single roses such as *R. canina* are delicate and have fewer than eight petals, but many such as *R. rugosa* are hardier and grow in most locations.
Flowers June to August
H x S 4m x 1.5m (*R. canina*)



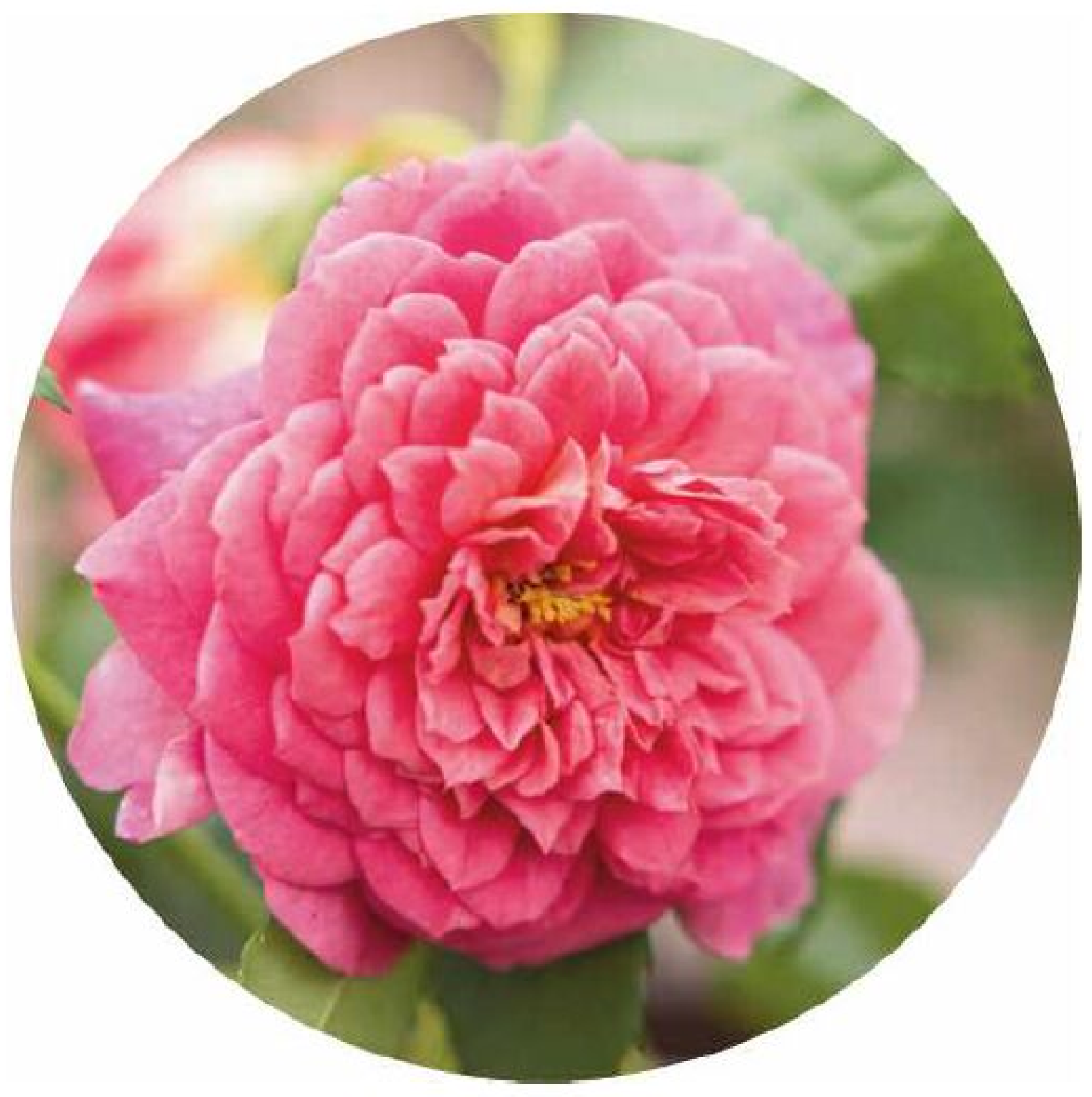
SEMI-DOUBLE
These have petals in two or three rows and look open, like single roses. Semi-double roses such as 'Alissar, Princess of Phoenicia' usually have 8-20 petals.
Flowers June to October
H x S 1.2m x 1m



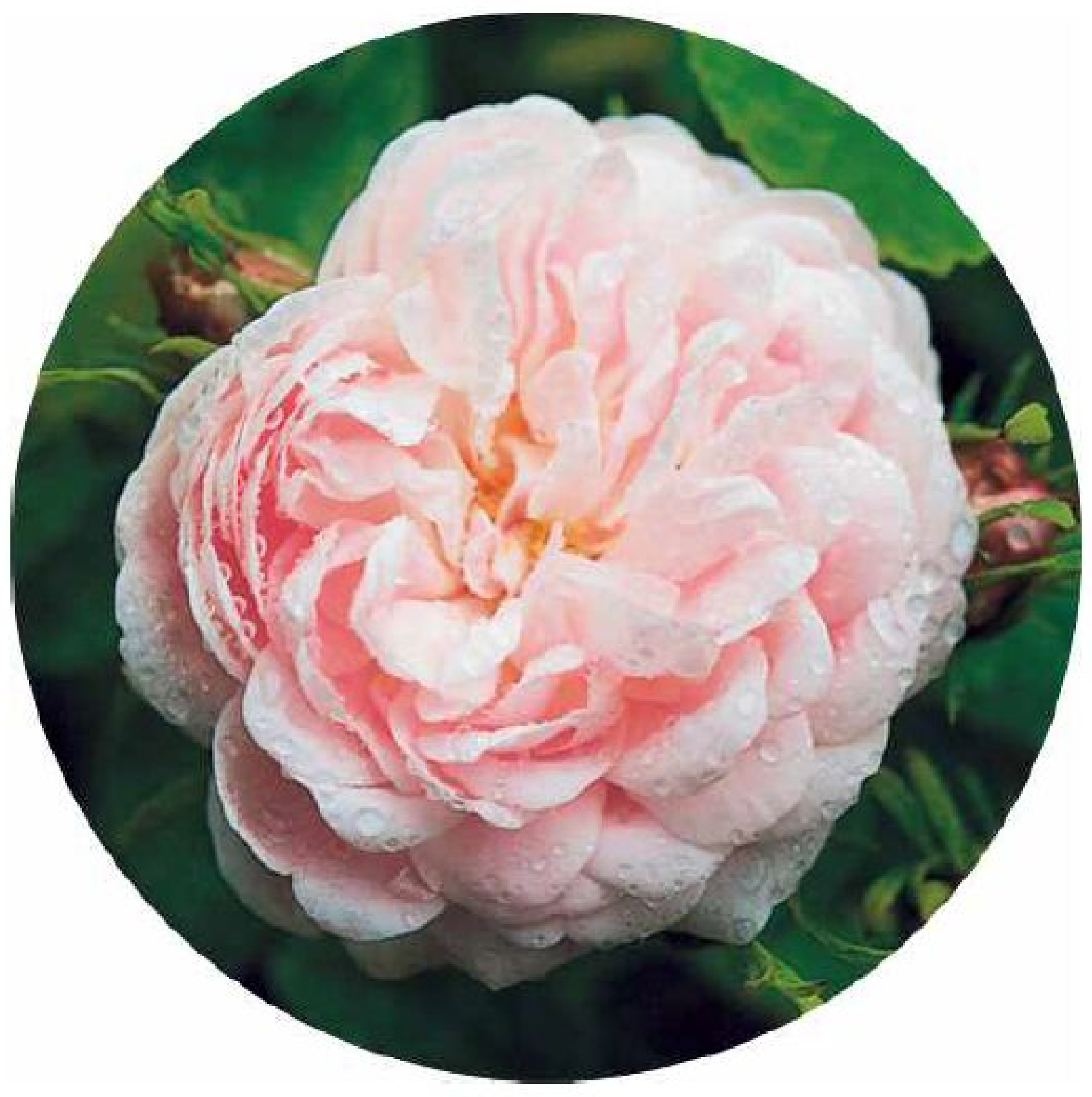
DOUBLE-FLOWERED
Double-flowered roses have more than 20 petals. 'Golden Celebration' above, has cup-shaped, large double flowers with a strong scent.
Flowers June to October
H x S 1.2m x 1m



ROSETTE
Rosette roses have flowers with lots of petals that create circles around an inner cup. 'Port Sunlight' is a great example of a sumptuous shape.
Flowers June to October
H x S 1.2m x 90cm



BUTTON EYE
Some roses have masses of petals with a central eye, called a button eye. 'Emma Bridgewater' is a beautiful button eye rose with a strong scent.
Flowers June to October
H x S 1.2m x 1.2m



POMPON
Pompon-shaped roses such as 'Pompon Blanc Parfait' have small, round blooms with lots of petals. This old rose variety flowers only once.
Flowers June to July
H x S 1.2m x 1m

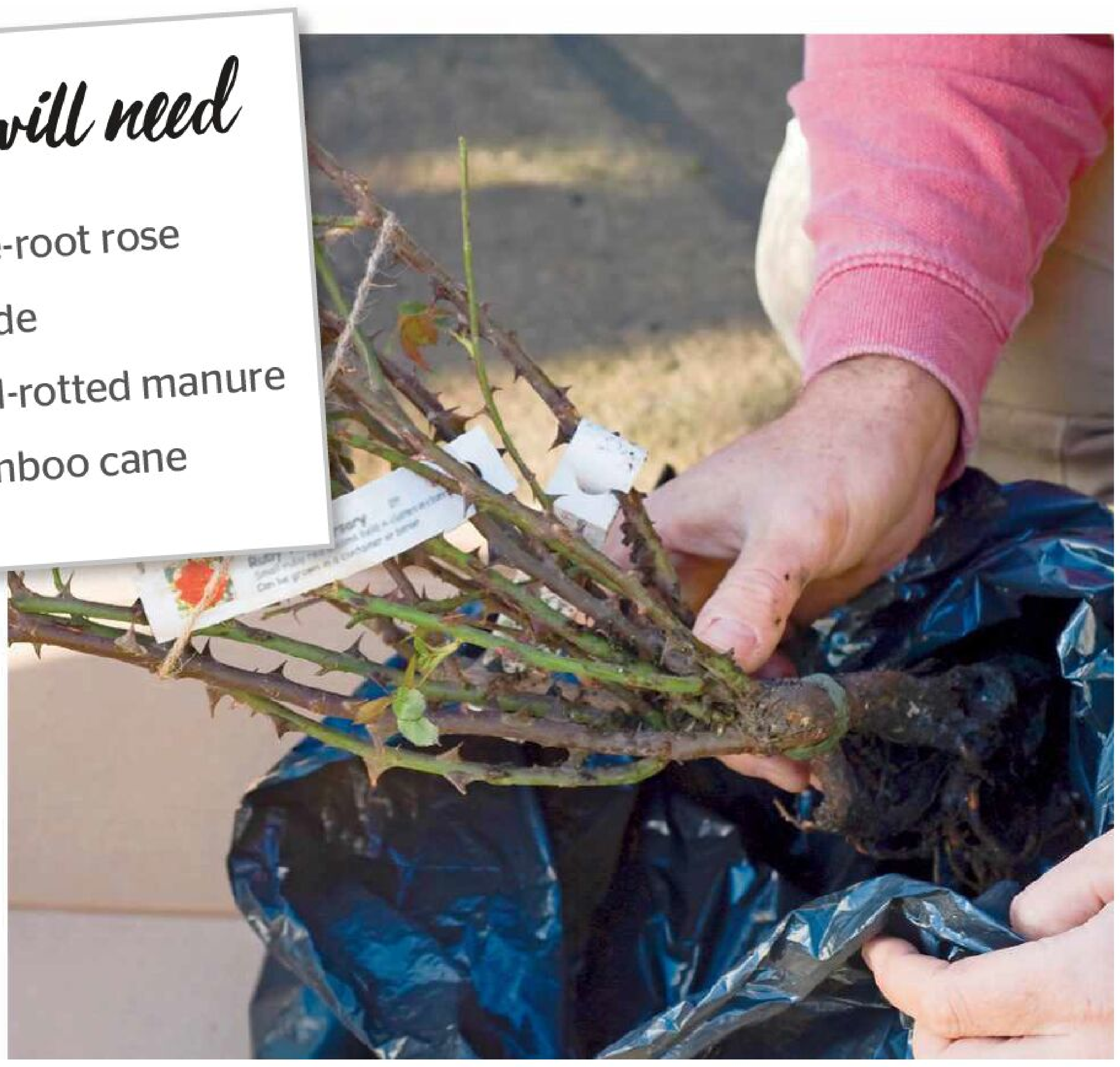
HOW TO

Plant bare-root roses

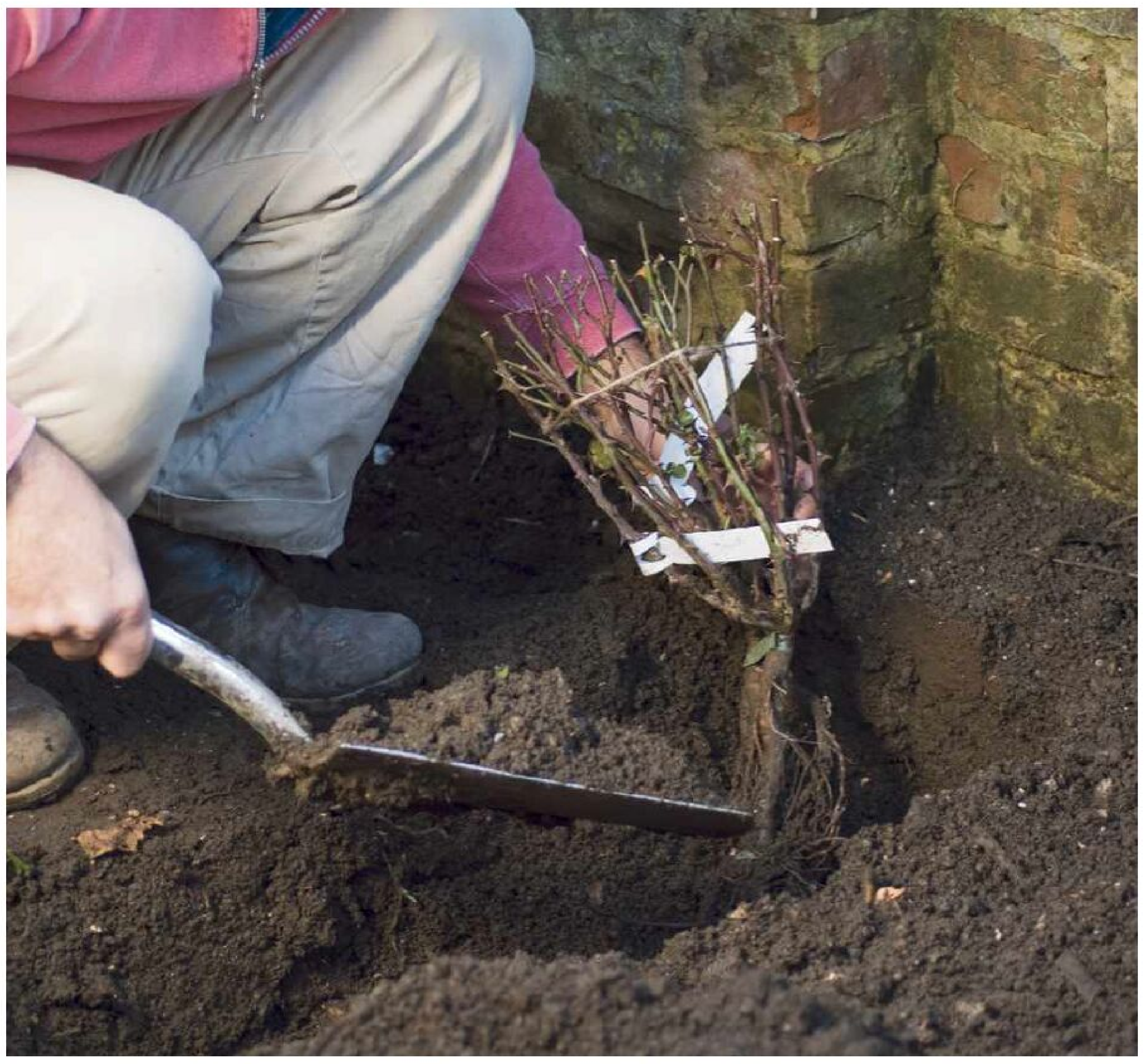
Plant these in late autumn or late winter to spring. Avoid planting in the middle of winter or when the ground is frozen and plant as soon as they're delivered, keeping the roots wrapped until the planting hole is ready. Trim back the roots and shoots before planting, removing any weak or damaged growth.

You will need

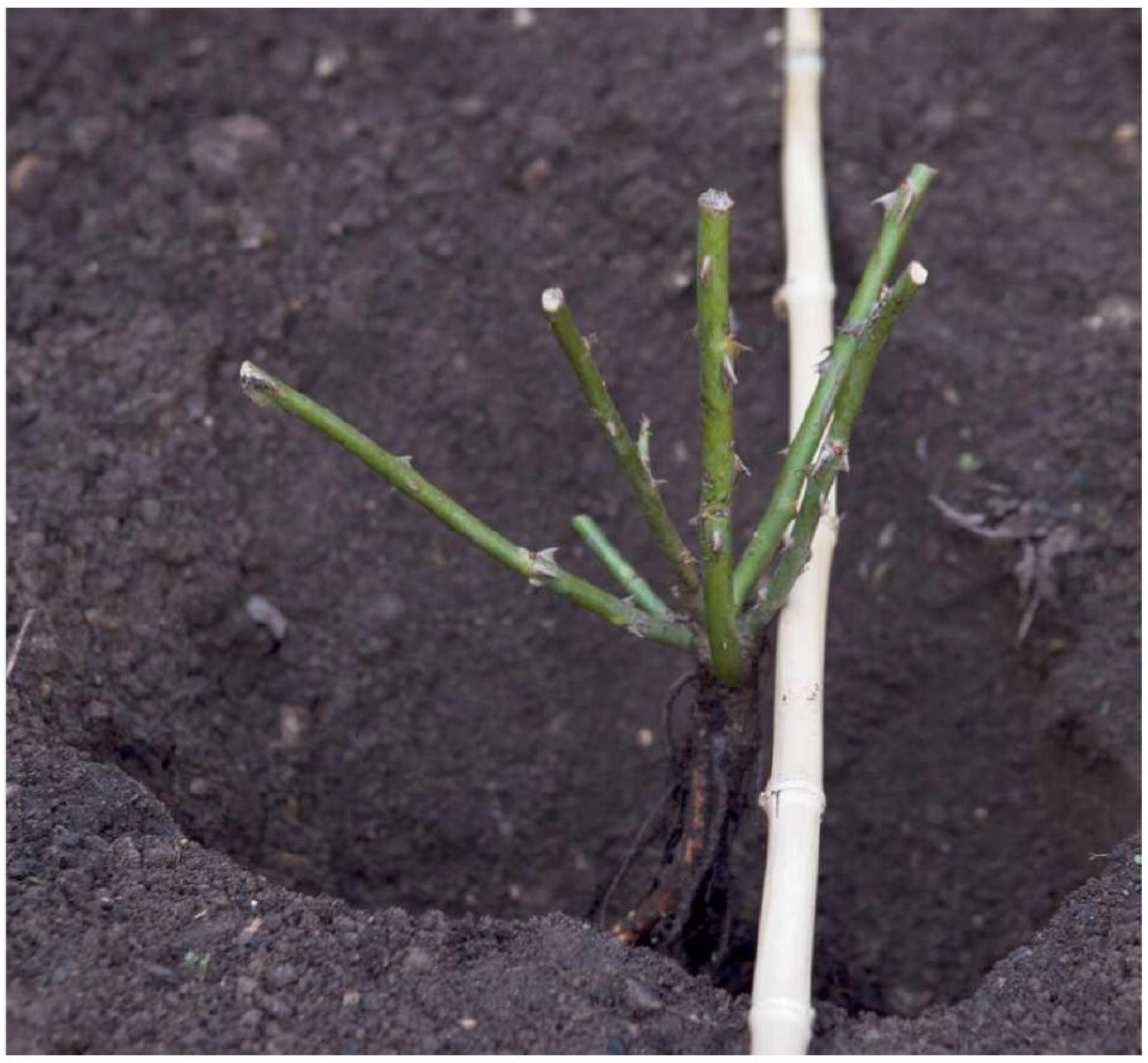
☐ Bare-root rose
☐ Spade
☐ Well-rotted manure
☐ Bamboo cane



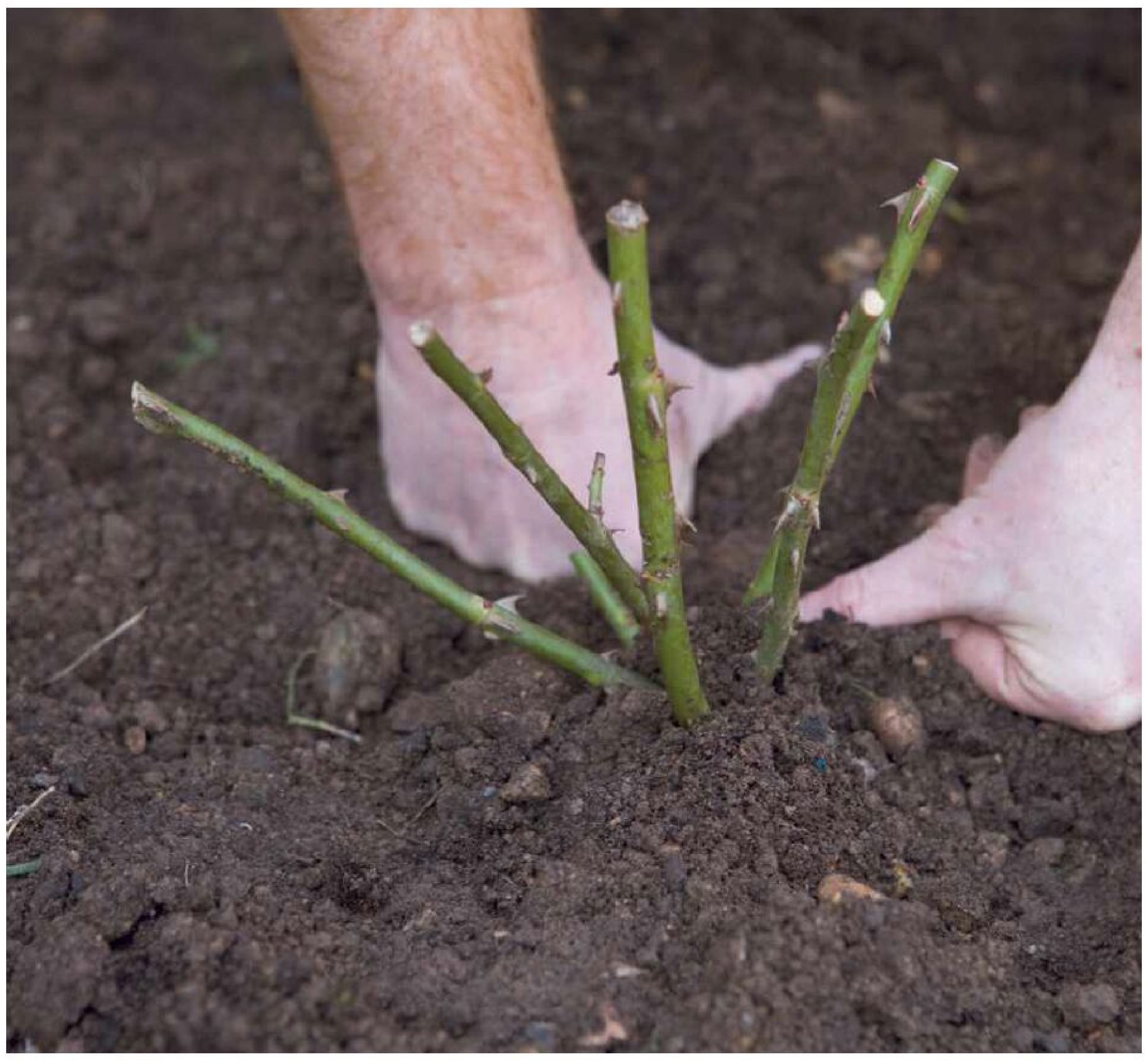
1 When roses arrive it is best to soak them for half an hour then plant but if not possible, they can be kept in their packaging somewhere cool and frost-free for two weeks.



2 If you can't plant in two weeks, heel in a rose, or bundle of roses, keeping them tied together so you only need one hole. Make sure roots are covered and firm the soil in.



3 Put some well-rotted manure in the base of the hole and dig it in. Using a cane, align the graft point on the stem with the soil surface, then fill under the roots with soil.

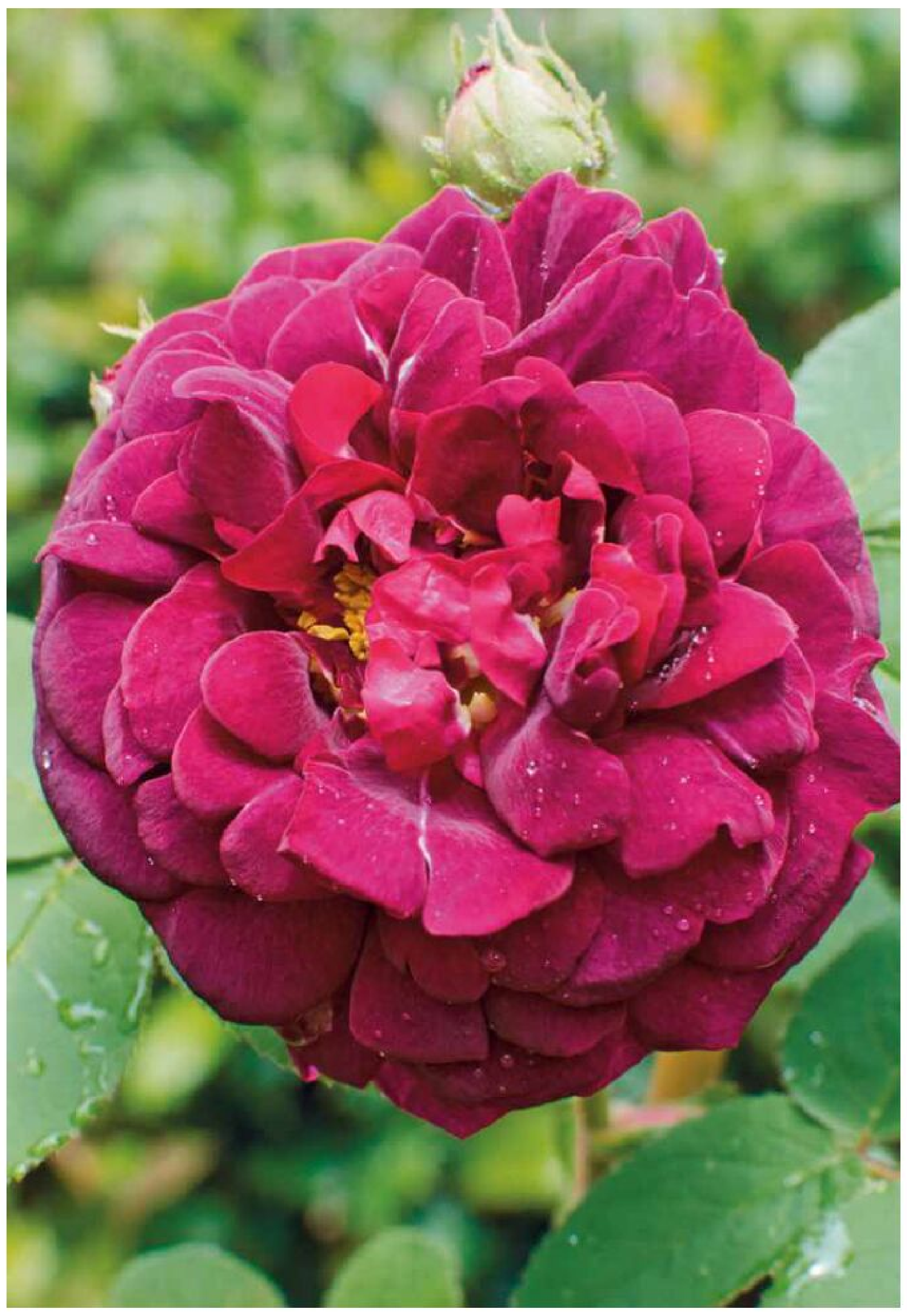


4 Firm the soil, then check that the plant is still sitting at the right level. Finish filling in the hole so the graft point is just below soil level, then firm again and water.

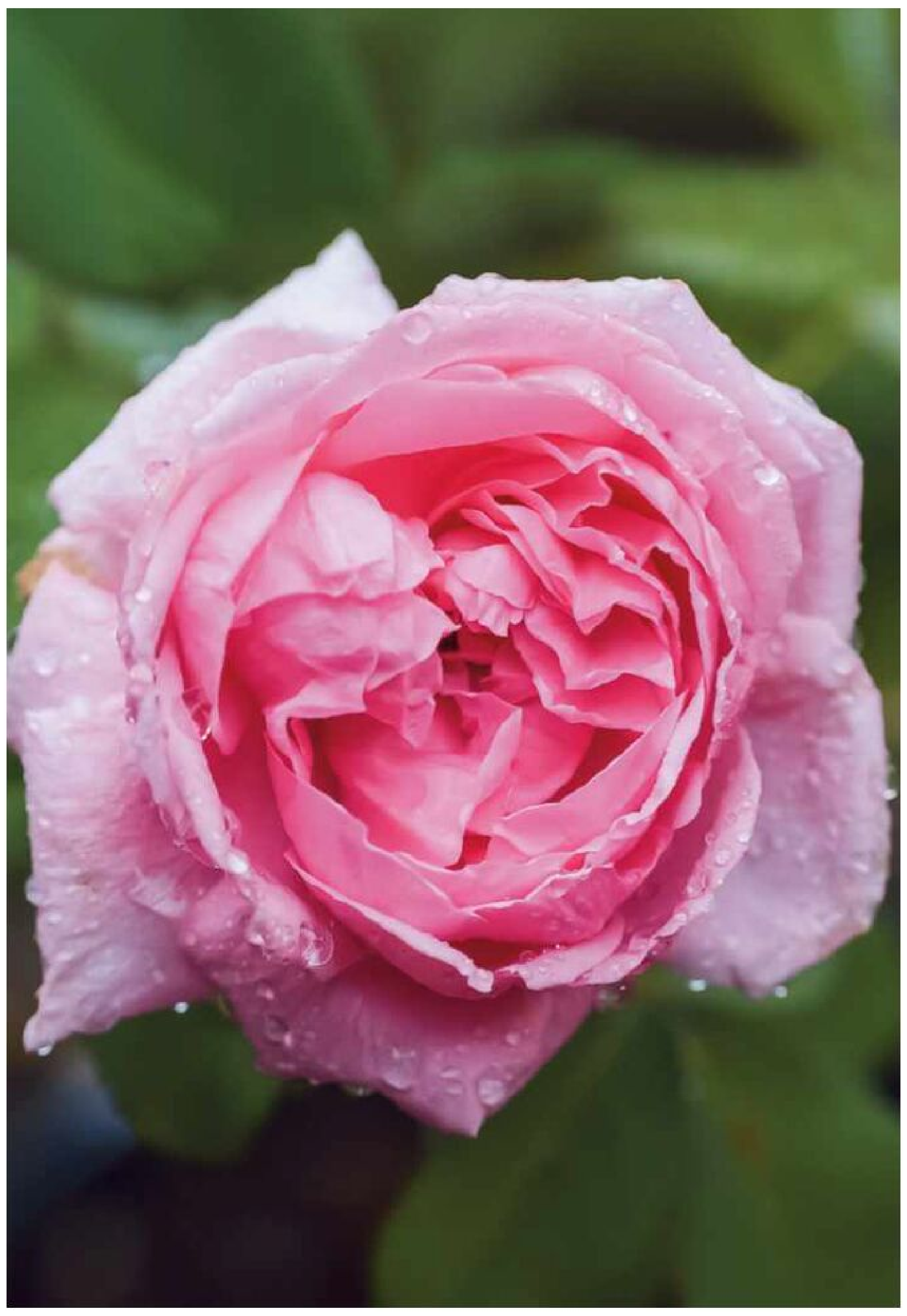
'Perfect Pet' has generous clusters of velvety petals

Old roses

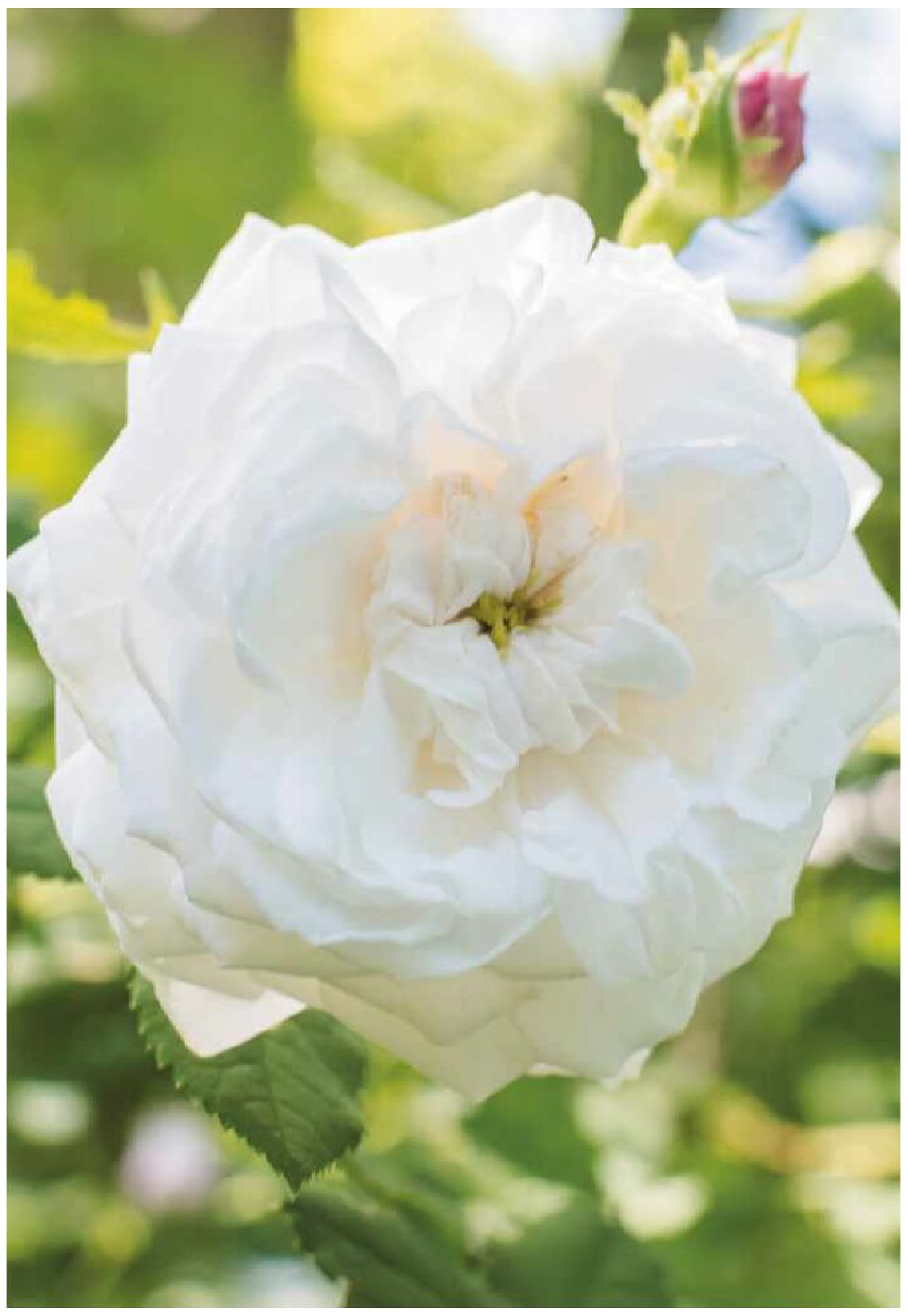
Old roses are known for their scent and include groups such as albas, damasks, centifolias, gallicas and mosses, which were especially popular in the early 19th century until the fashion for hybrid teas took over. Most flower just once in early summer, but there are some repeat-flowering varieties, such as the China roses that came over from China in the 18th century.



'Tuscany Superb'
This variety is a gallica rose that produces sumptuous semi-double flowers, followed by attractive hips. The dark crimson blooms have a strong fragrance and will make a big impact in a mixed border.
Flowers June to August
H x S 1.5m x 1.2m



'Comte de Chambord'
A wonderful variety that offers the best of both worlds: an old-fashioned rose with a modern, repeat-flowering habit. It bears fully double, open pink flowers throughout summer and has a good scent.
Flowers June to September
H x S 1.2m x 90cm

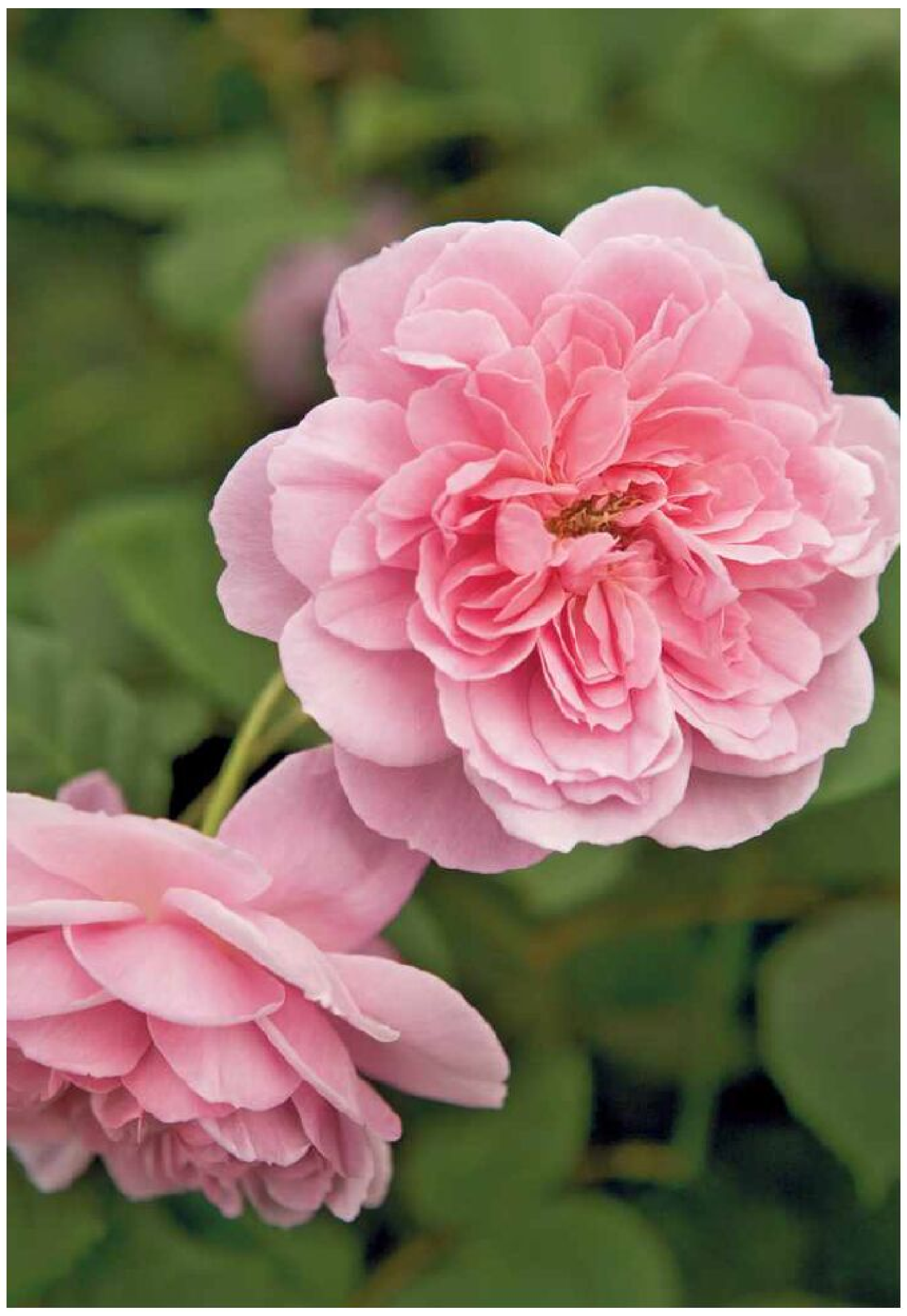


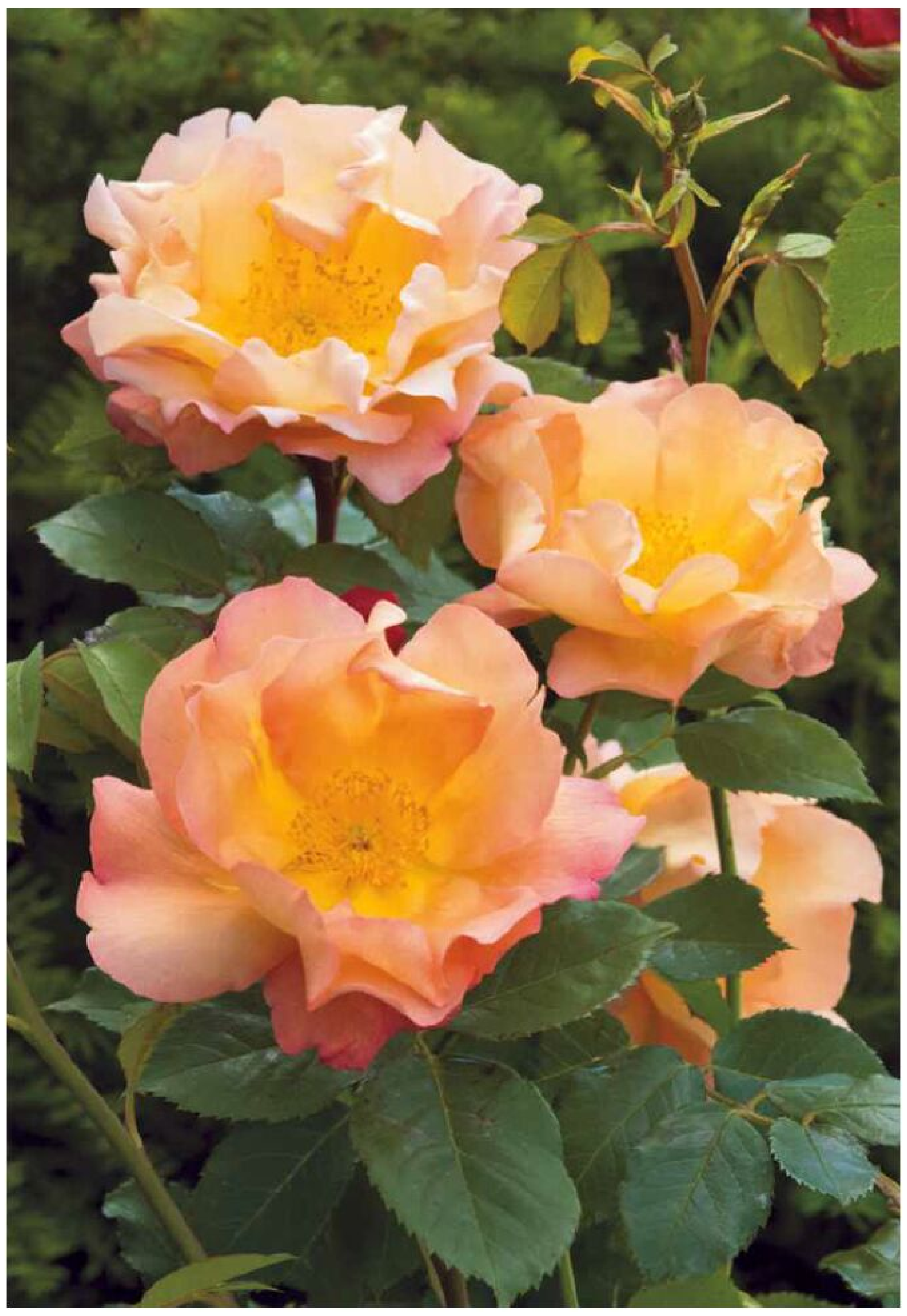
'Madame Plantier'
The scented blooms of this graceful, arching white rose appear in clusters. They have a pompon shape and attractive foliage. 'Madame Plantier' can be left to grow as a bush or trained as a climber.
Flowers June to July
H x S 1.5m x 1.5m

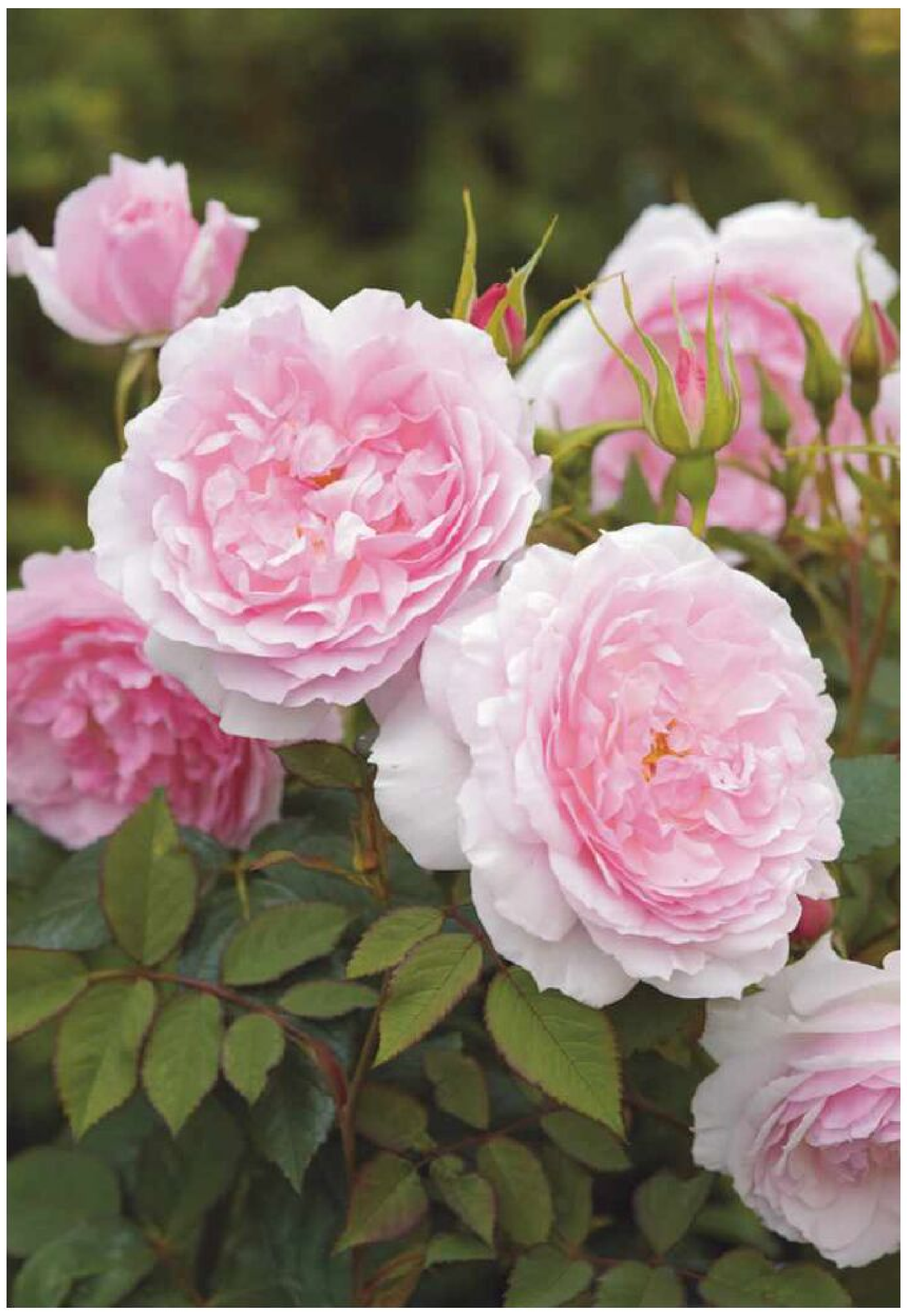
'Ferdinand Pichard'
A great choice if you're looking for a repeat-flowering old rose. 'Ferdinand Pichard' stands out with its stripy flowers and has a strong fragrance.
Flowers June to October
H x S 1.2m x 1.2m

Modern shrub roses

Modern shrub roses come in a variety of colours with a good range of fragrances and they're a great choice for a mixed border or a rose bed. The flower shapes vary from single to double. Some of the taller varieties can be trained as climbers. This a group known for being tough and often repeat-flowering throughout summer. They are also said to be easier to look after than hybrid teas and floribundas.







'Maid Marion'

This is a compact, vibrant pink repeat-flowering rose. These are a beautiful rosette shape and have a strong myrrh fragrance that matures into a more fruity scent.

Flowers June to October
H x S 1.2m x 1m

'Fighting Temeraire'

Bees love the large, open apricot flowers on this attractive rose. It also has a good fragrance and produces masses of flowers throughout summer.

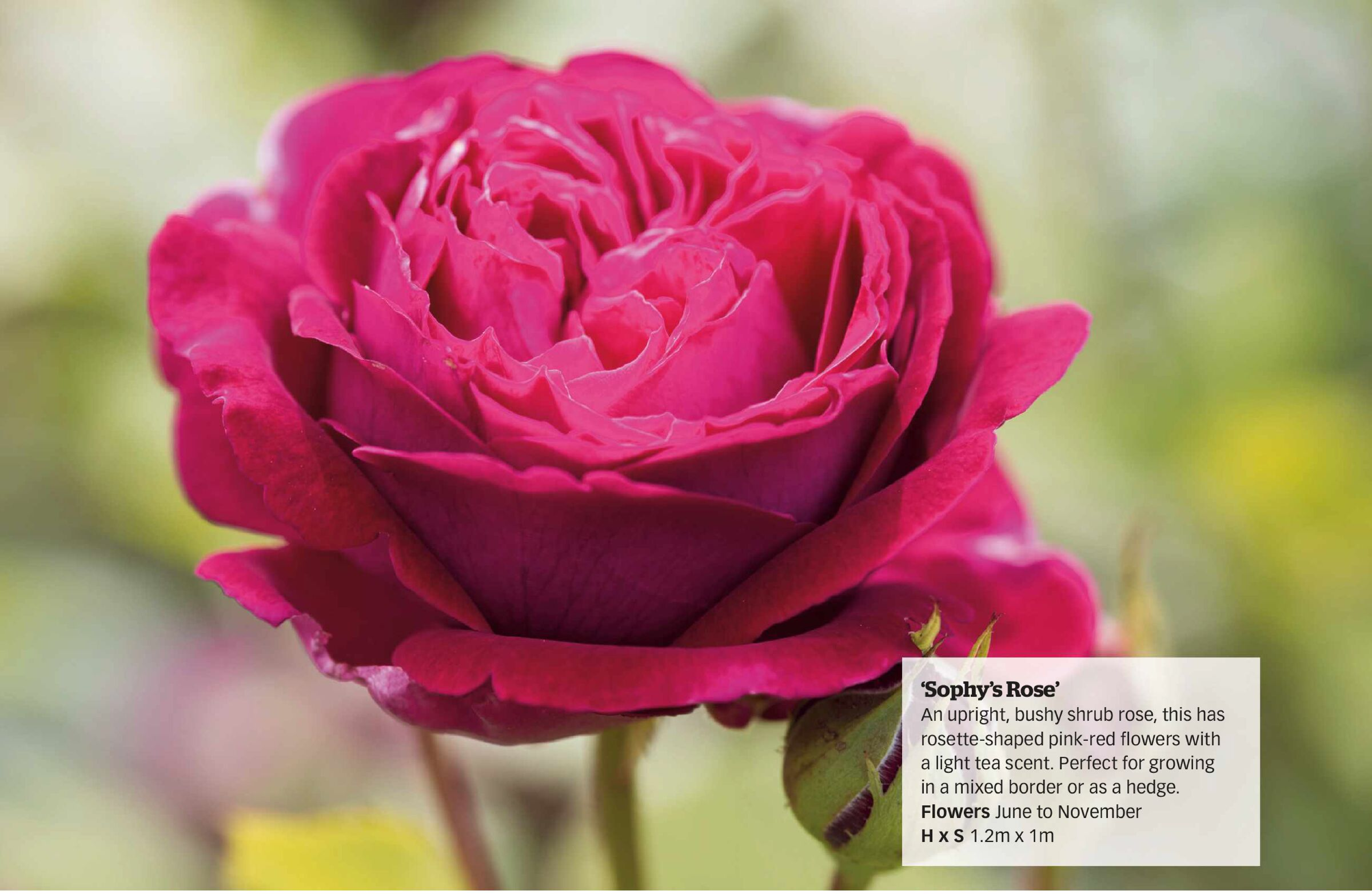
Flowers June to October
H x S 1.m x 1.5m

'Lady Salisbury'

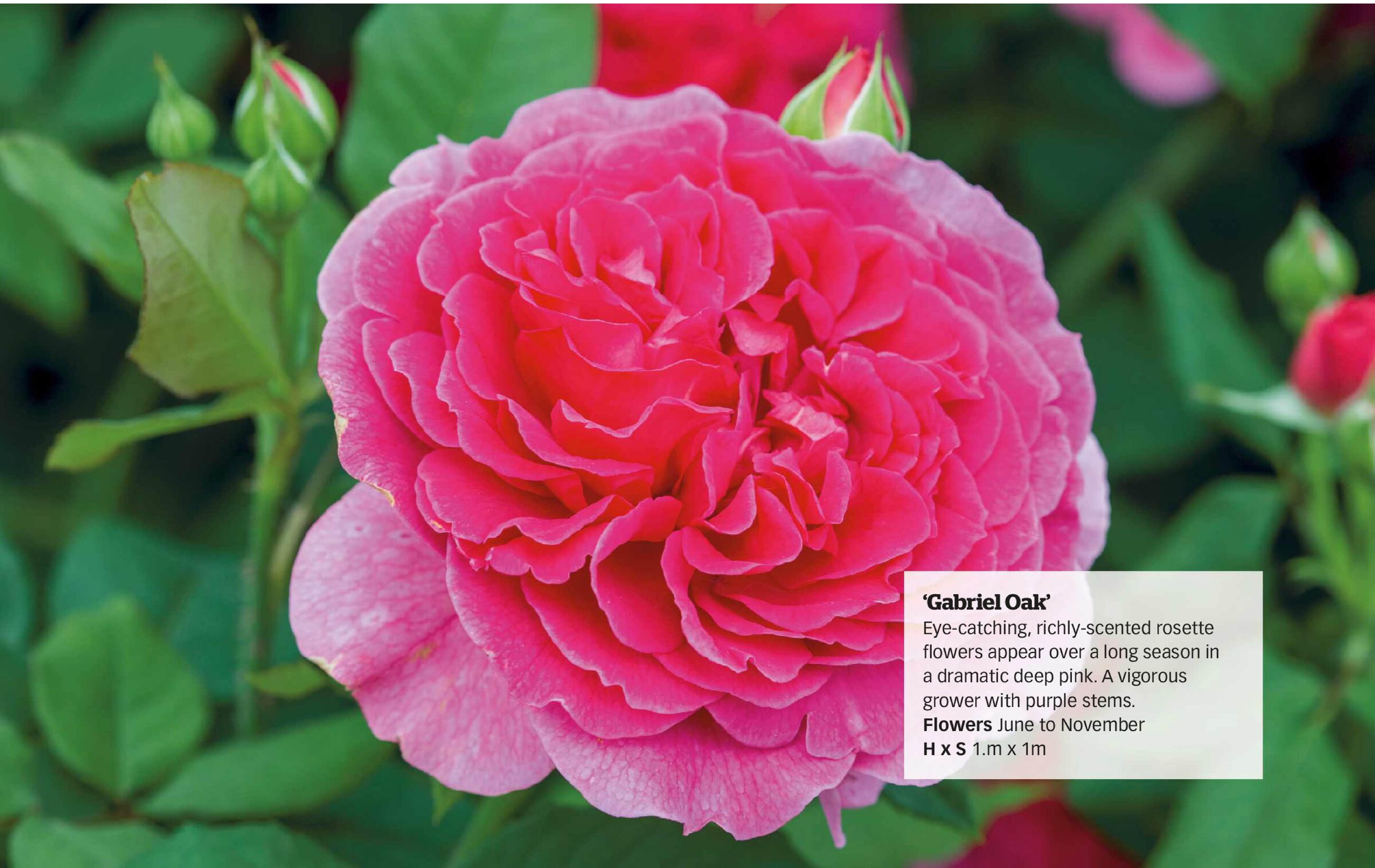
A beautiful pink rose that looks like an old variety because of its full, rosette-shaped blooms. It's repeat-flowering and will give your borders a boost through summer.

Flowers June to November
H x S 1.2m x 1m

'Sir John Betjeman'
Large, double pink flowers are held on arching stems on this classic English shrub rose. The flowers deepen in colour as they mature.
Flowers June to November
H x S 1.2m x 1.2m



‘Sophy’s Rose’
An upright, bushy shrub rose, this has rosette-shaped pink-red flowers with a light tea scent. Perfect for growing in a mixed border or as a hedge.
Flowers June to November
H x S 1.2m x 1m



‘Gabriel Oak’
Eye-catching, richly-scented rosette flowers appear over a long season in a dramatic deep pink. A vigorous grower with purple stems.
Flowers June to November
H x S 1.m x 1m

'Wild Edric'
Hardy with pretty semi-double blooms. Both the stamens and petals are scented: the stamens smell of cloves, while the petals have an old rose scent.
Flowers June to October
H x S 1.6m x 1.4m

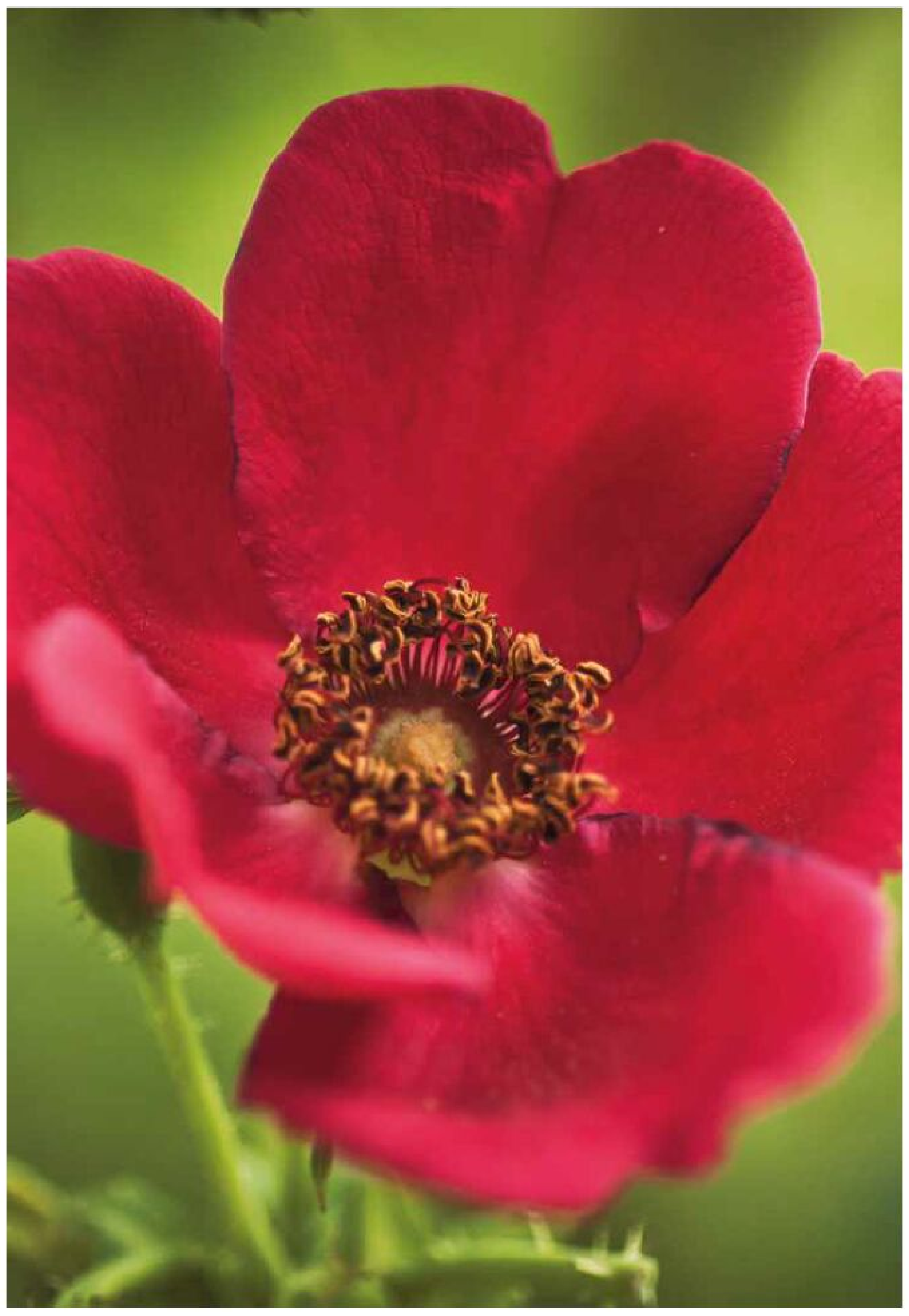
'Thomas à Becket'
This is a repeat-flowering shrub rose but it looks like a wild rose and is healthy and vigorous. It produces loose rosettes of crimson flowers with an old rose fragrance and a hint of lemon.
Flowers June to September
H x S 1.2m x 90cm

'Mary Delany'
This tall shrub rose can be grown as a bush or a climber. The cup-shaped flowers are a soft pink and have an old rose scent, complemented by small dark green leaves – with the bonus of very few thorns.
Flowers June to October
H x S 3.6m x 1.3m

'Boscobel'
Enjoy the fragrance of this vibrant salmon-pink rose that combines hints of myrrh, elderflower, pear and almond. Compact in size, it's a healthy bush rose suitable for growing in containers.
Flowers June to November
H x S 1.1m x 1.1m

Species roses

Species roses are wild or native roses. They usually have single flowers, such as the dog rose, and can often be seen clambering through hedgerows in the countryside. But they also make excellent garden plants as they are very hardy, which makes them easy to look after. These roses are a good choice if you have problem planting areas such as poor soil. They can thrive in almost any position.

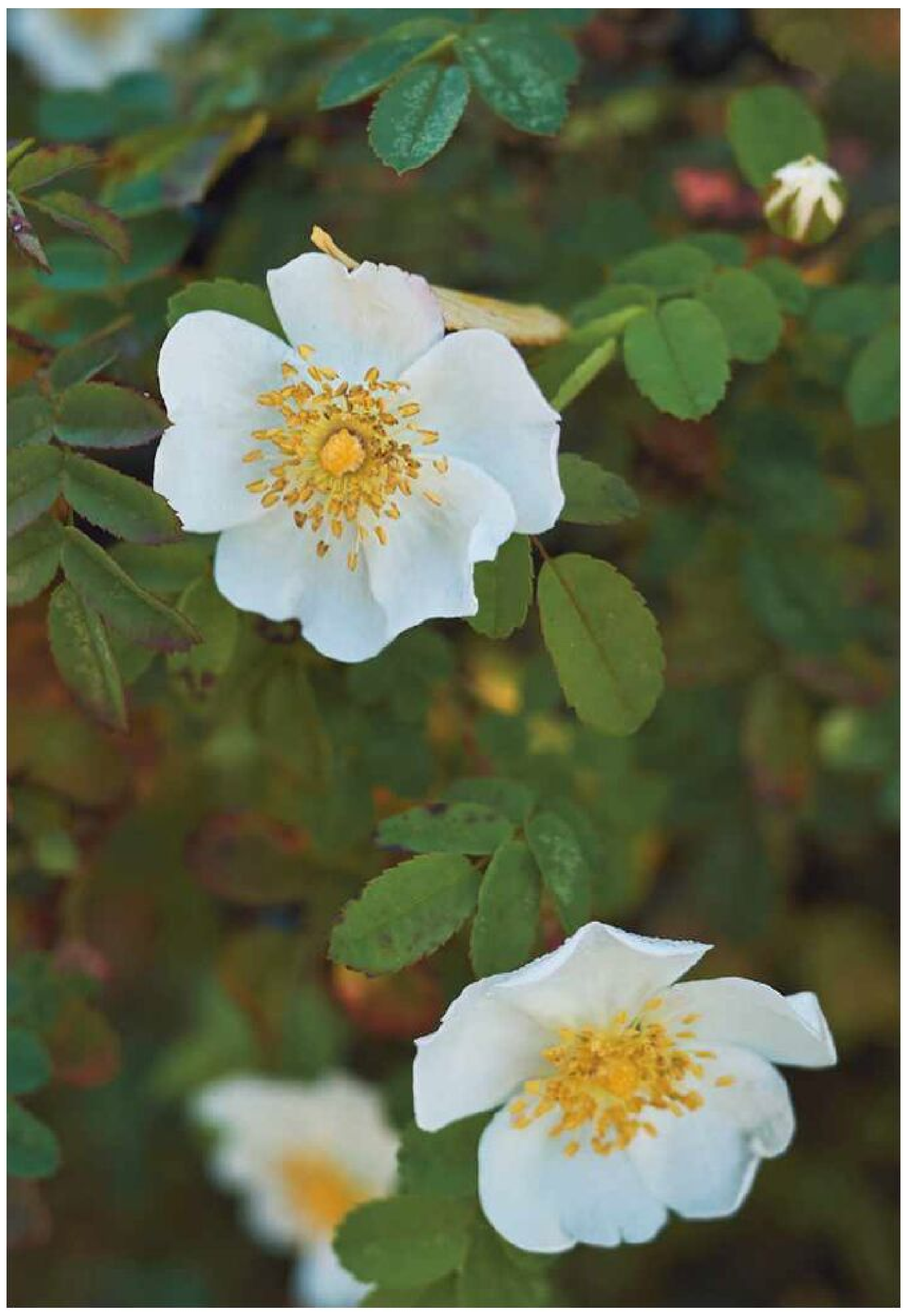


R. moyesii

With bright red single flowers, *R. moyesii* also has attractive foliage and flagon-shaped hips. Try the popular variety 'Geranium', which is a strong grower, with an arching habit and vibrant red blooms.

Flowers June to August

H x S 2.5m x 2m

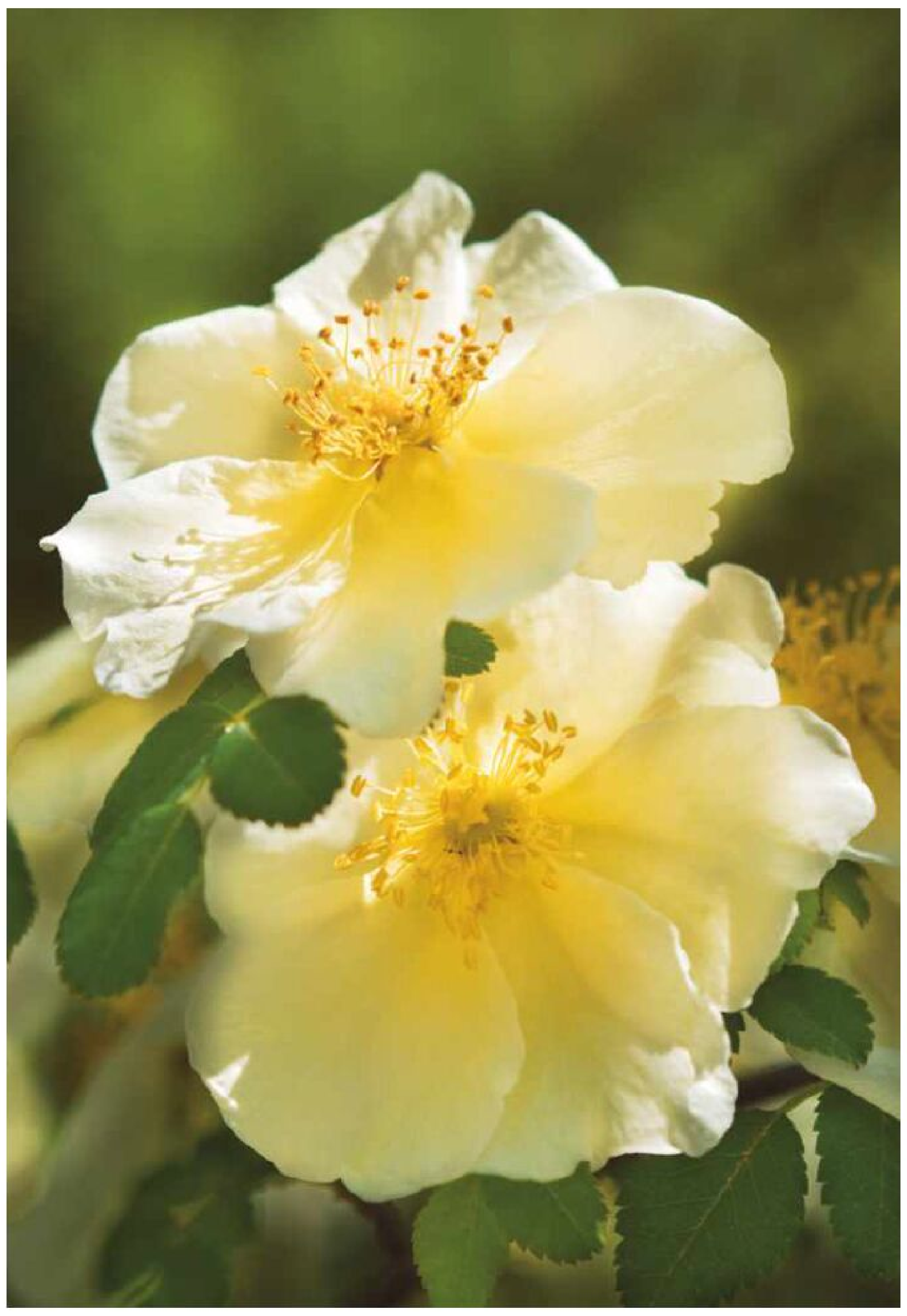


R. spinosissima

This makes a great low hedge as it's compact at only 90cm high. It also flowers early, with an abundance of white blooms in late spring, followed by purple-black hips. Plant alongside other species roses to extend the season.

Flowers May to June

H x S 90cm x 1.2m



R. hugonis

This elegant rose is a large shrub that flowers only once in spring with light, cup-shaped yellow blooms on long branches and beautiful ferny foliage. It later produces small red-brown hips.

Flowers May

H x S 2.5m x 1.5m

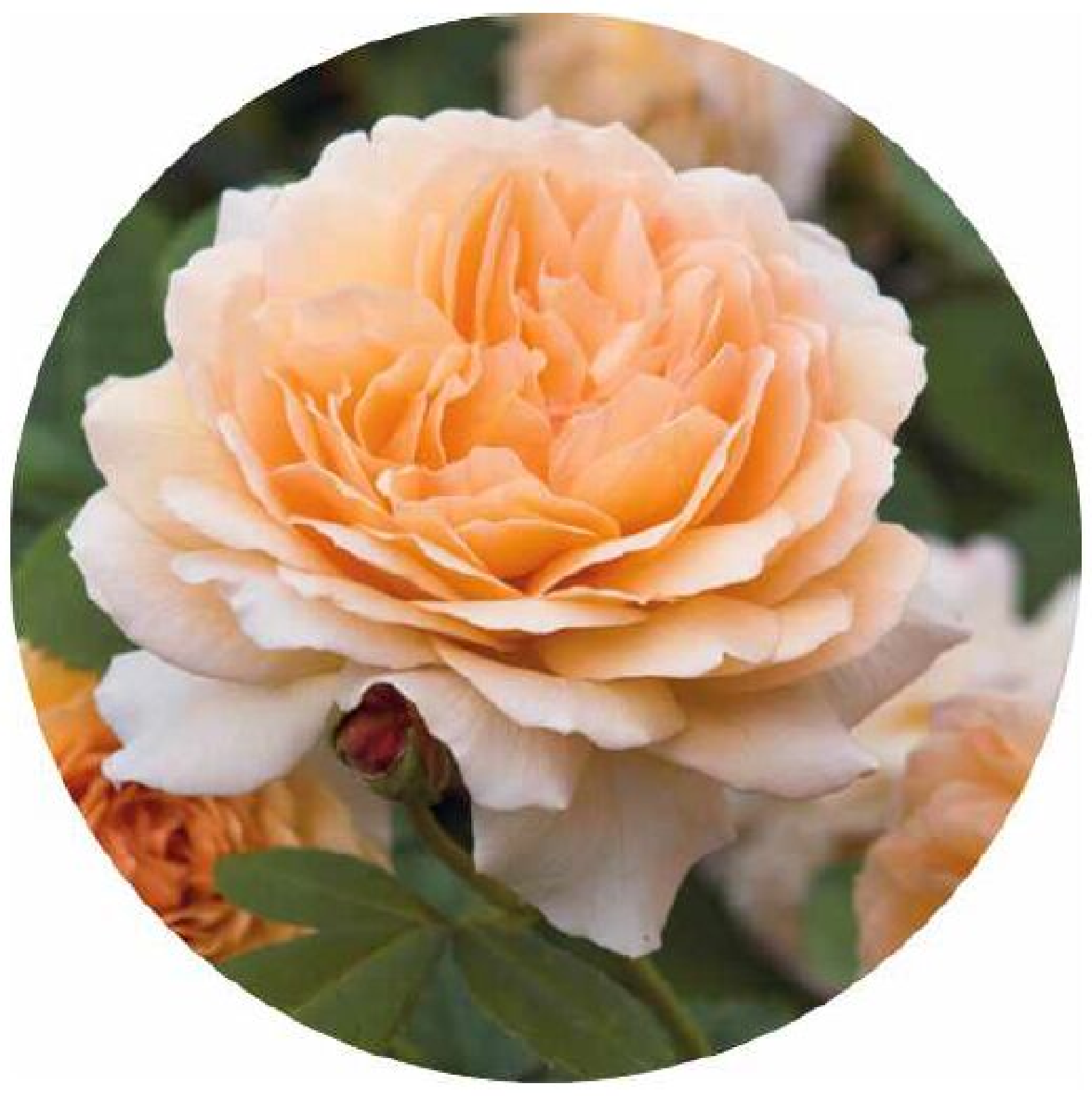
***R. rubiginosa* (eglantine)**
The pink sweet briar rose has leaves that smell of apples. It makes a good hedge as it's fast-growing, forming a dense thicket, with hooked thorns.
Flowers June to July
H x S 2.5m x 2.5m

'Big Purple' is a highly scented hybrid tea rose

FOCUS ON

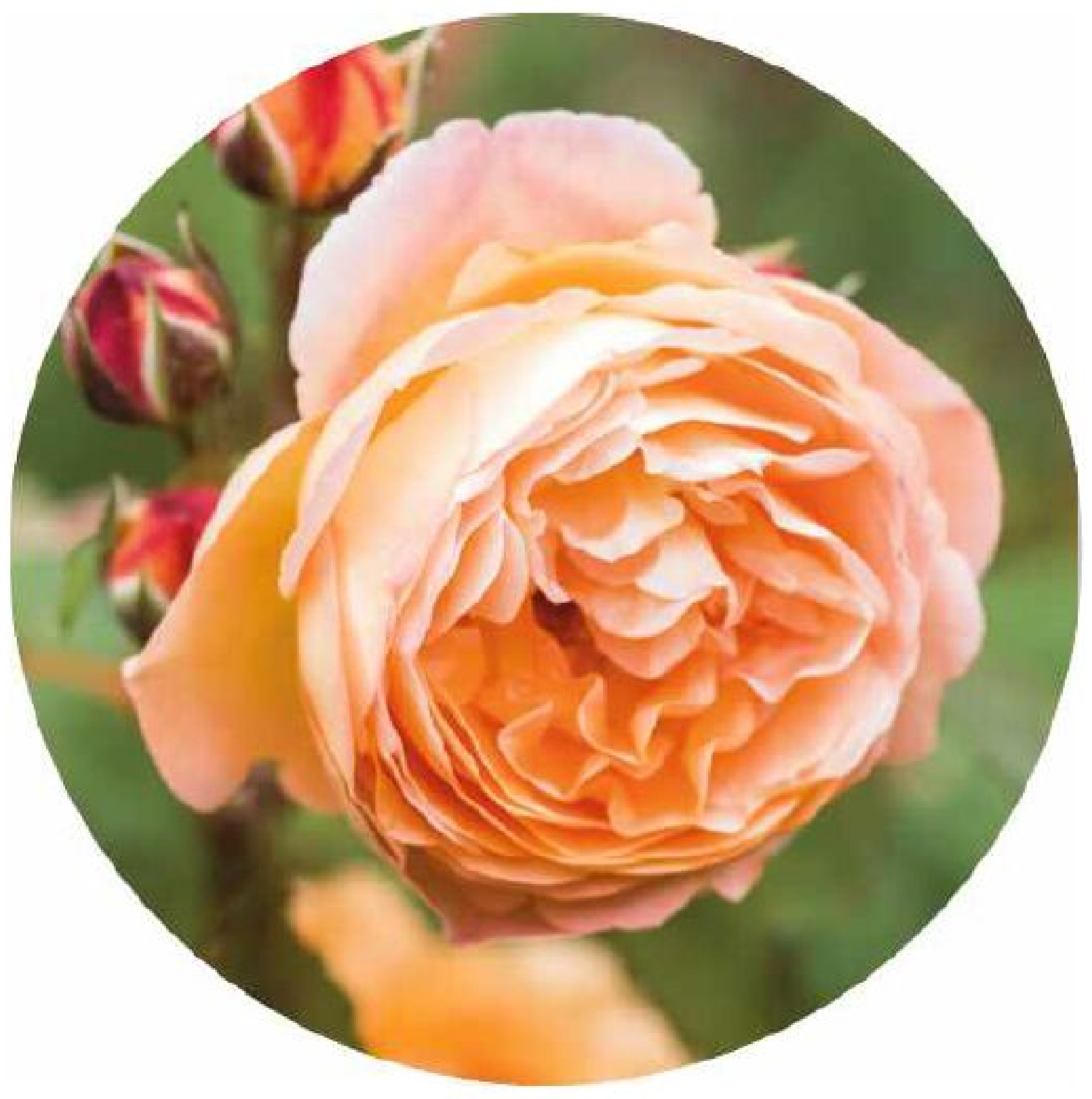
Roses for cutting

Roses are the perfect plants for cut flowers – they come in a wide range of colours, with a variety of wonderful fragrances and shapes. Double roses have attractive ruffled petals, while single roses are perfect for simple but pretty displays. To get the best results from your roses, cut the stems just as the flowers are about to open and cut them either first thing in the morning or in the evening. For an eye-catching, end-of-season dash of colour, leave the last roses of the year to develop their hips and add these to your vases for seasonal interest.



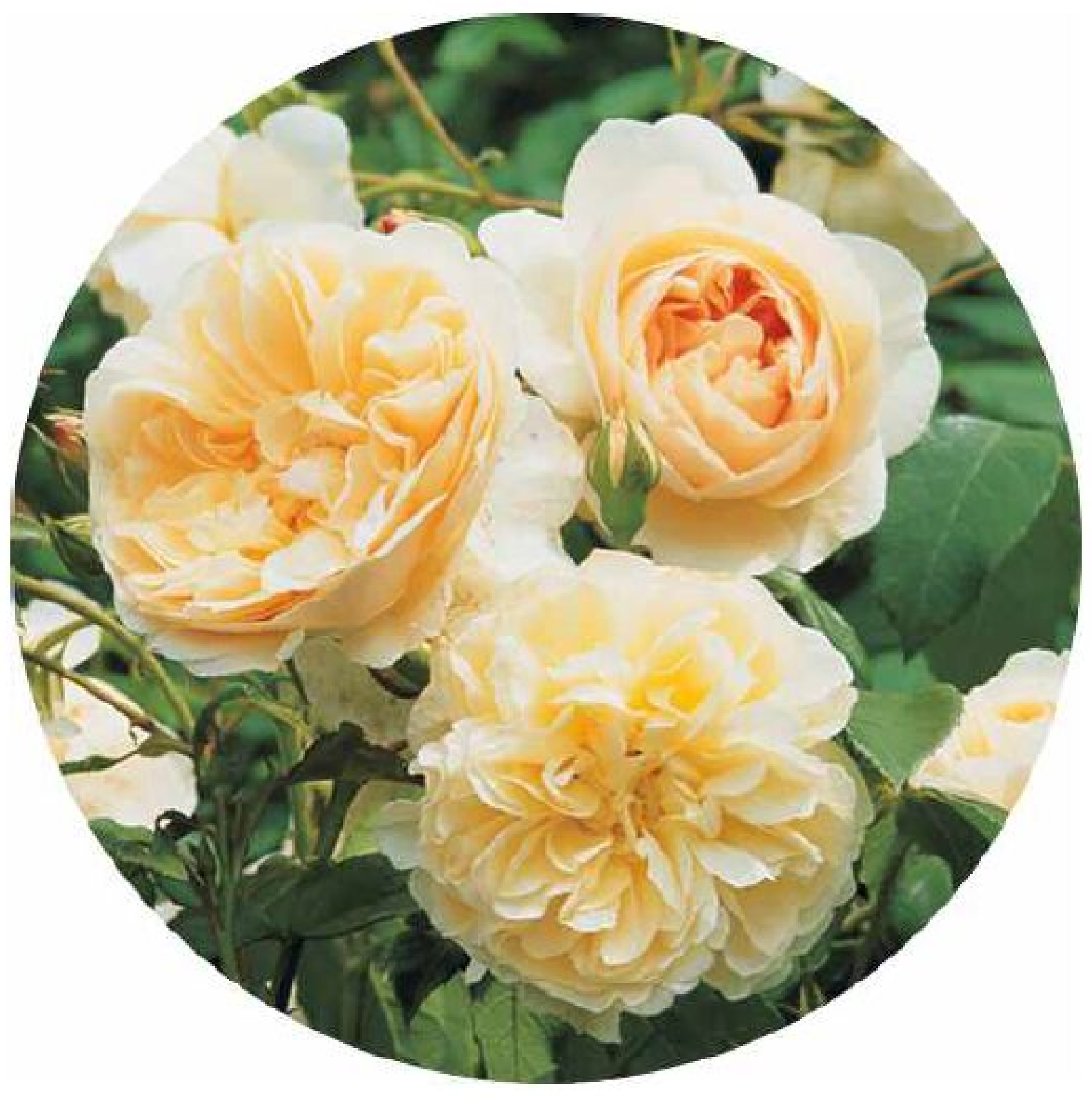
'Grace'

These exquisite rosettes will add elegance to a vase and the rich scent can be enjoyed, too. The colour is darkest in the middle of the bloom.
Flowers June to October
H x S 1.1m x 1.2m



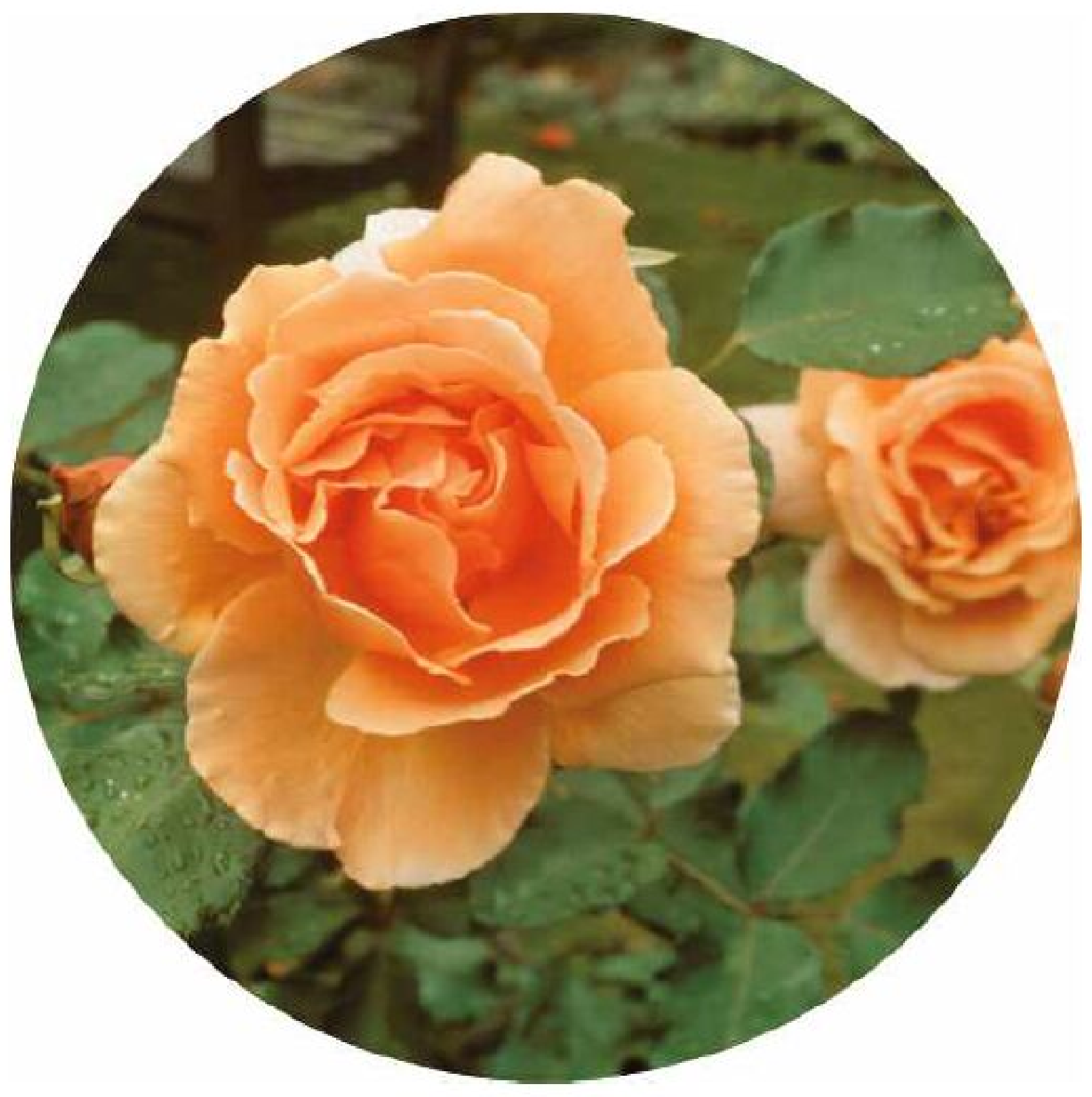
'Lady Emma Hamilton'

The cup-shaped orange blooms on this repeat-flowering shrub rose look striking indoors and produce a fruity fragrance.
Flowers June to October
H x S 1.2m x 1m



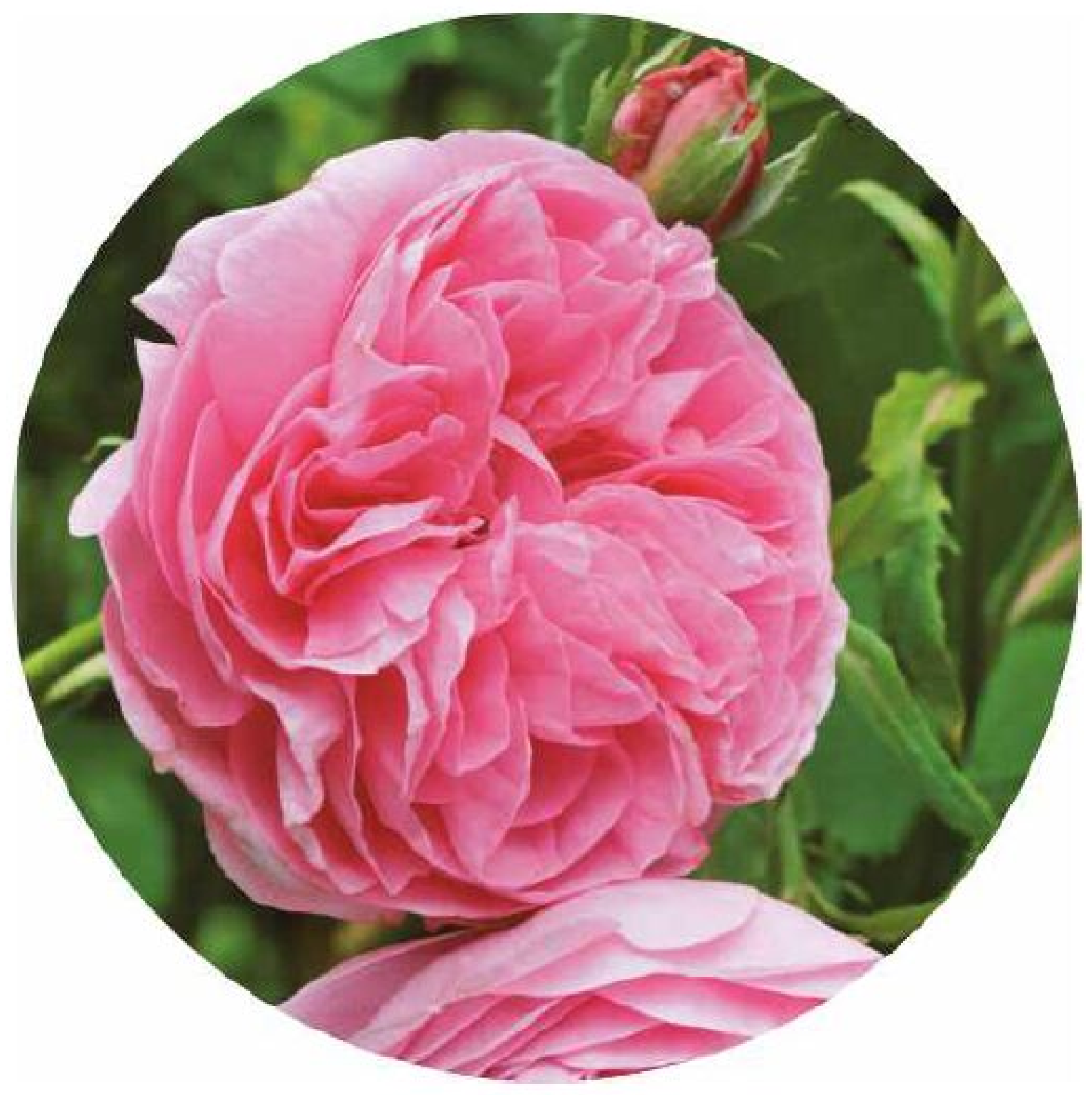
'Lichfield Angel'

Pale roses are always easy to combine with other flowers in bouquets and vases. 'Lichfield Angel' has domed flowers with a light clove fragrance.
Flowers June to October
H x S 1.5m x 1m



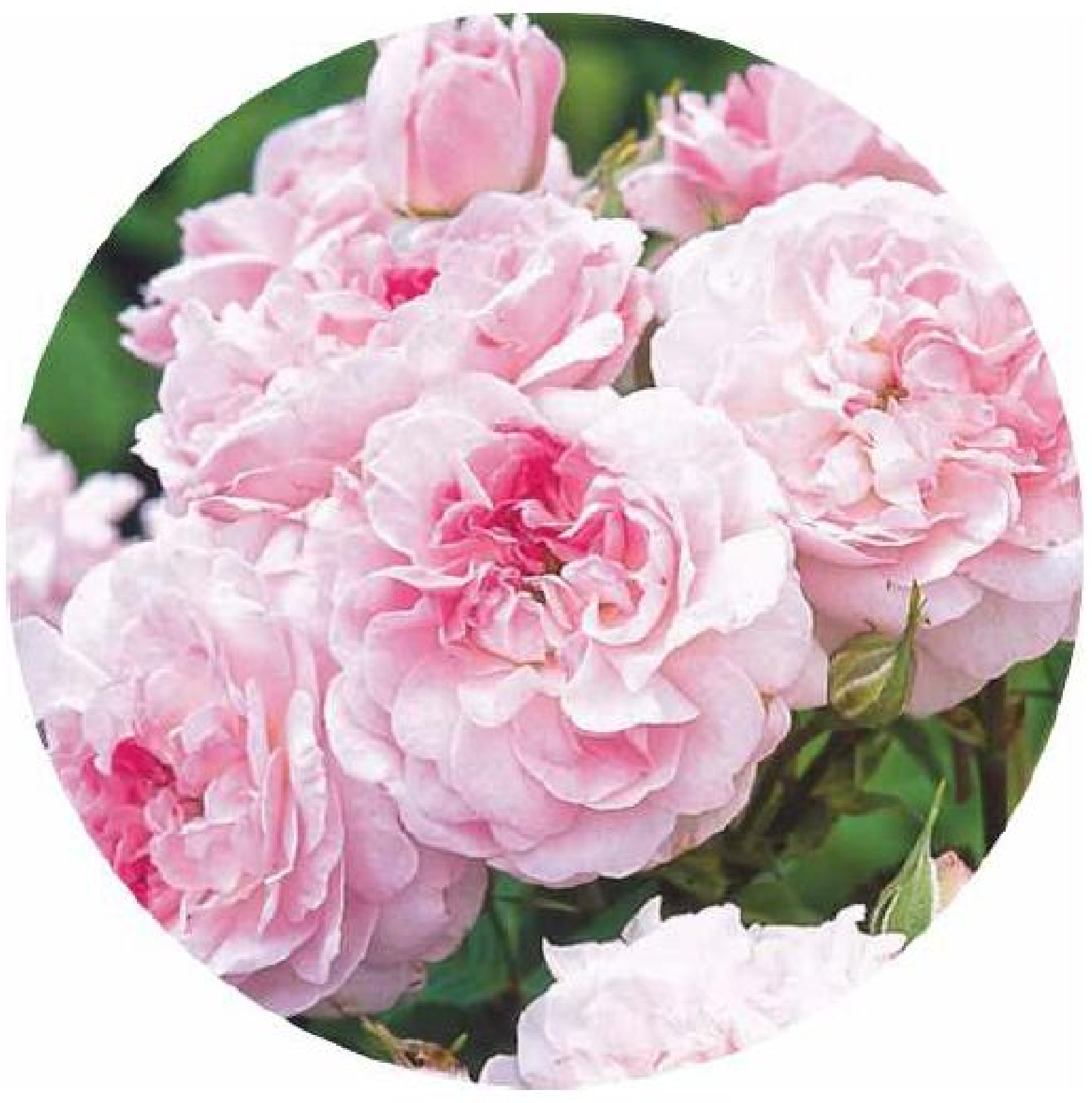
'Just Joey'

The blooms on this healthy rose make excellent cut flowers, with their attractive coppery-orange colour, glossy leaves and lovely scent.
Flowers July to September
H x S 75cm x 70cm



'Louise Odier'

Strongly fragrant pink flowers are produced en masse, leaving no shortage for vases indoors. This variety has long stems and a good vase life.
Flowers July to September
H x S 1.2m x 1.2m

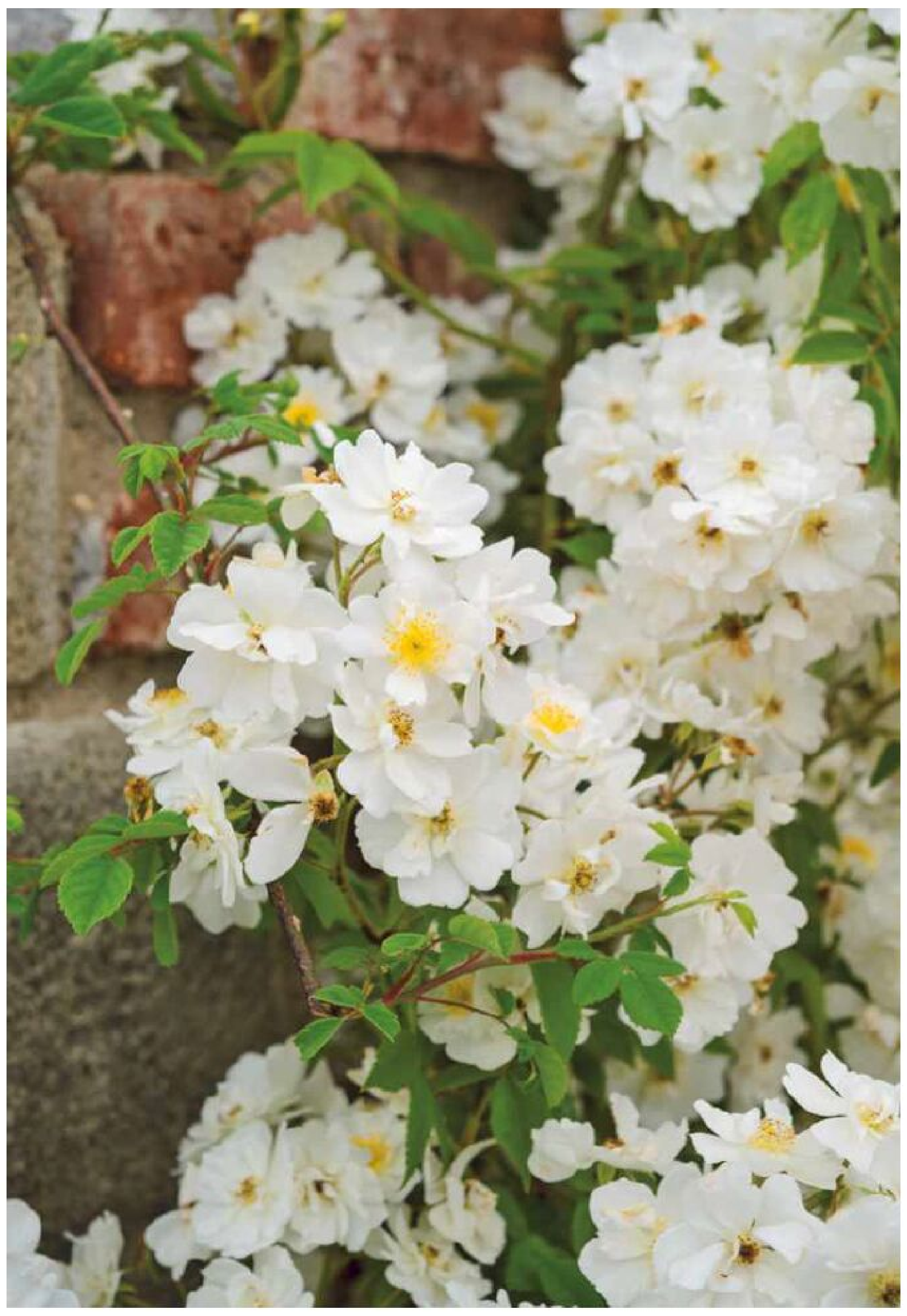


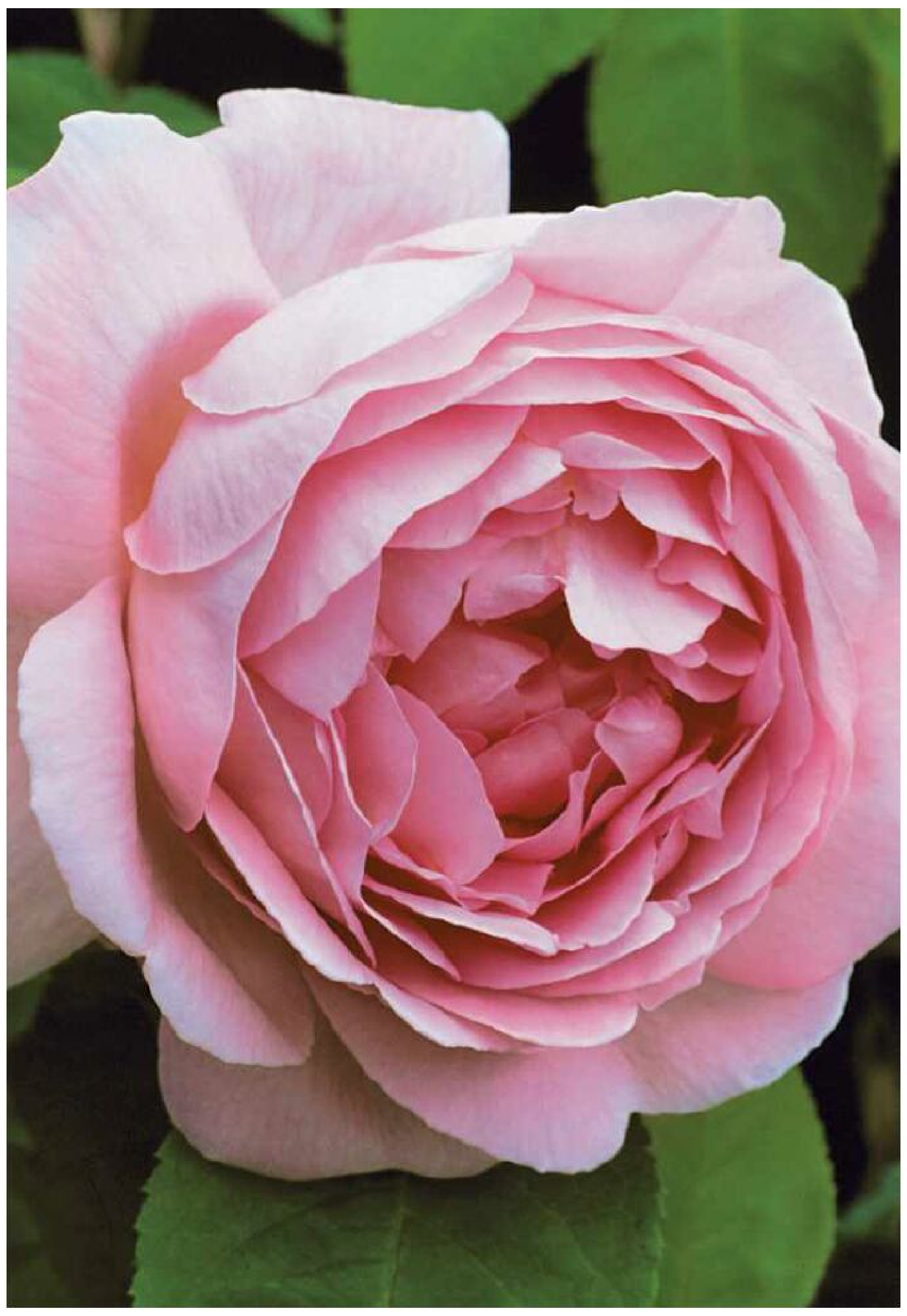
'Rosemoor'

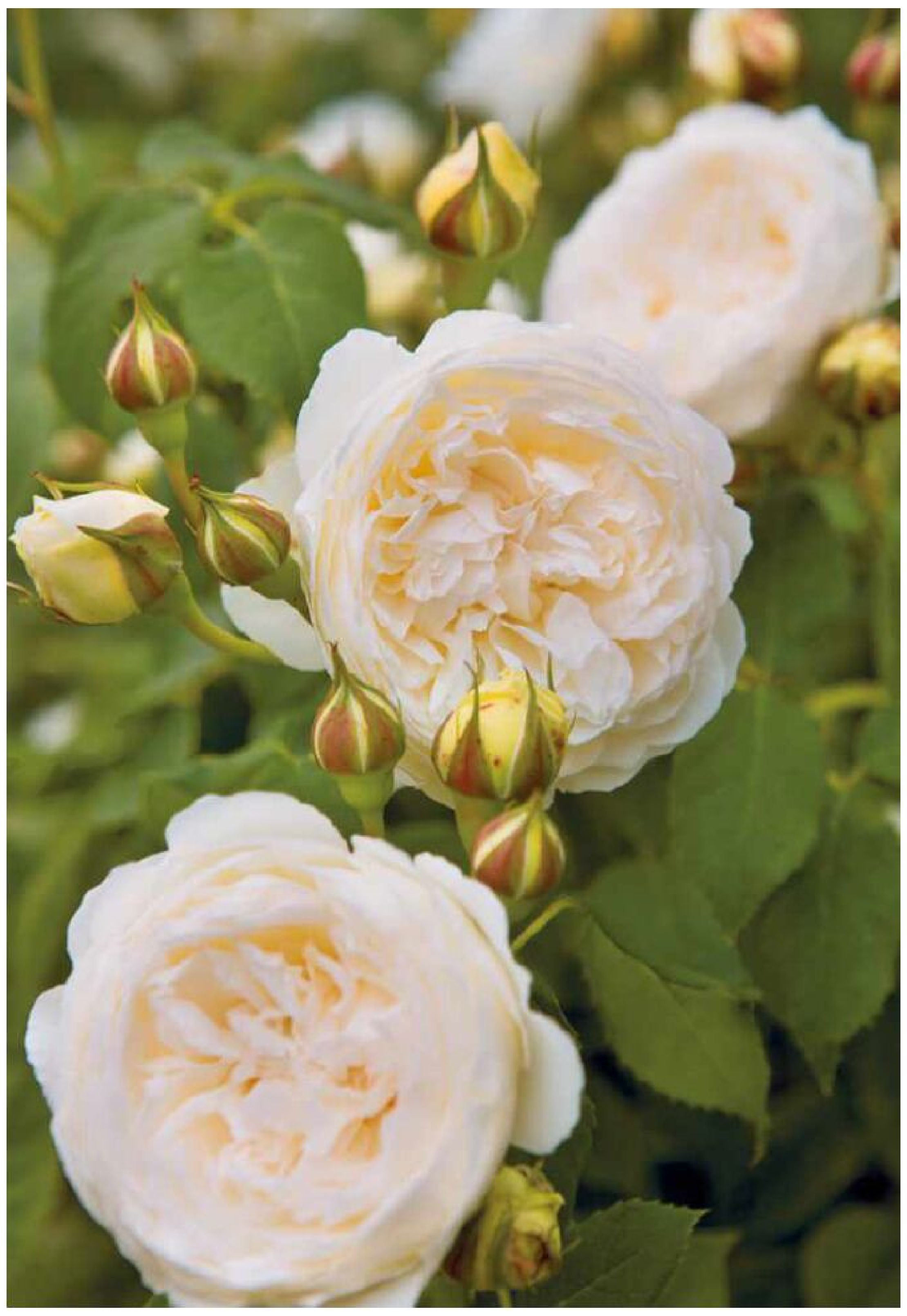
This upright shrub's small pink double flowers have a good scent and are produced over a long period, making it the perfect plant for cut flowers.
Flowers May to September
H x S 1m x 75cm

Climbers & ramblers

Climbing and rambling roses are incredibly useful plants that provide a long season of interest, beautiful blooms and scent. Use them to add colour to your walls and fences or to cover arches and obelisks. Depending on your space, you could try growing a few varieties together or combining with other scented climbers such as jasmine and honeysuckle. Ramblers tend to be more vigorous than climbing roses and need more space.







'Rambling Rector'

Plant this rose only if you have space to let it roam – it can reach 6m. For those with high boundaries, you'll enjoy the smell of its large white flowers in summer. Ideal for north-facing walls as it's tolerant of shade.

Flowers June to August

H x S 7m x 2m

'Constance Spry'

This is a vigorous shrub rose that can be trained as a very tall climber. It has fully double rose-pink flowers with a myrrh scent. It has an arching habit, so it's perfect for the back of a border or growing up a wall.

Flowers June to August

H x S 6m x 1.8m

'Claire Austin'

The white blooms are an attractive cupped shape that's set off perfectly by rich green foliage. It's ideal for growing against a wall or up a large arch or pergola. Plant where you'll be sitting near to make the most of the scent.

Flowers June to October

H x S 3.75m x 1.5m

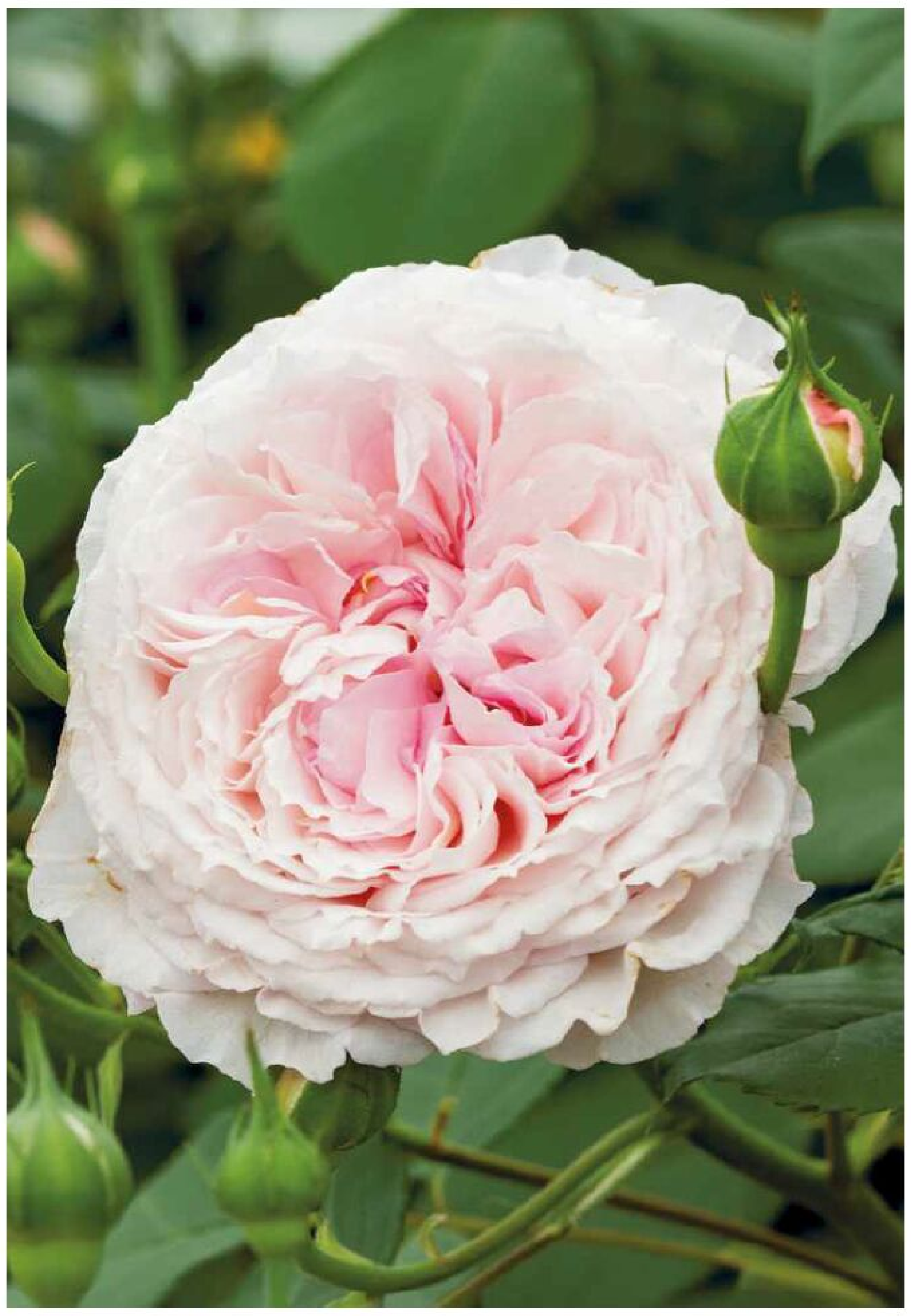
'Pippin'

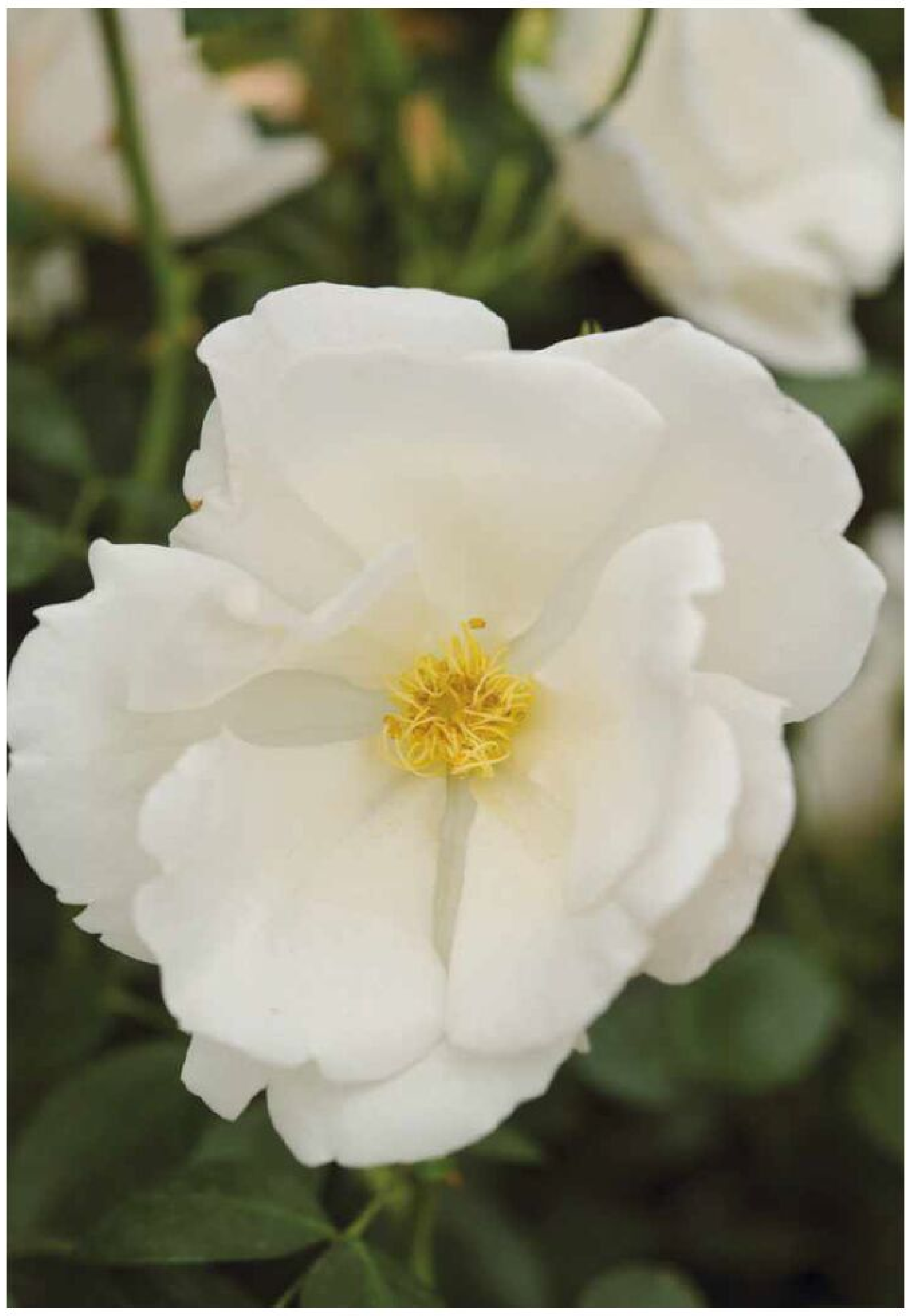
If you want a low-maintenance rose, this has good resistance to disease. It's repeat-flowering, with masses of scented pink double blooms.

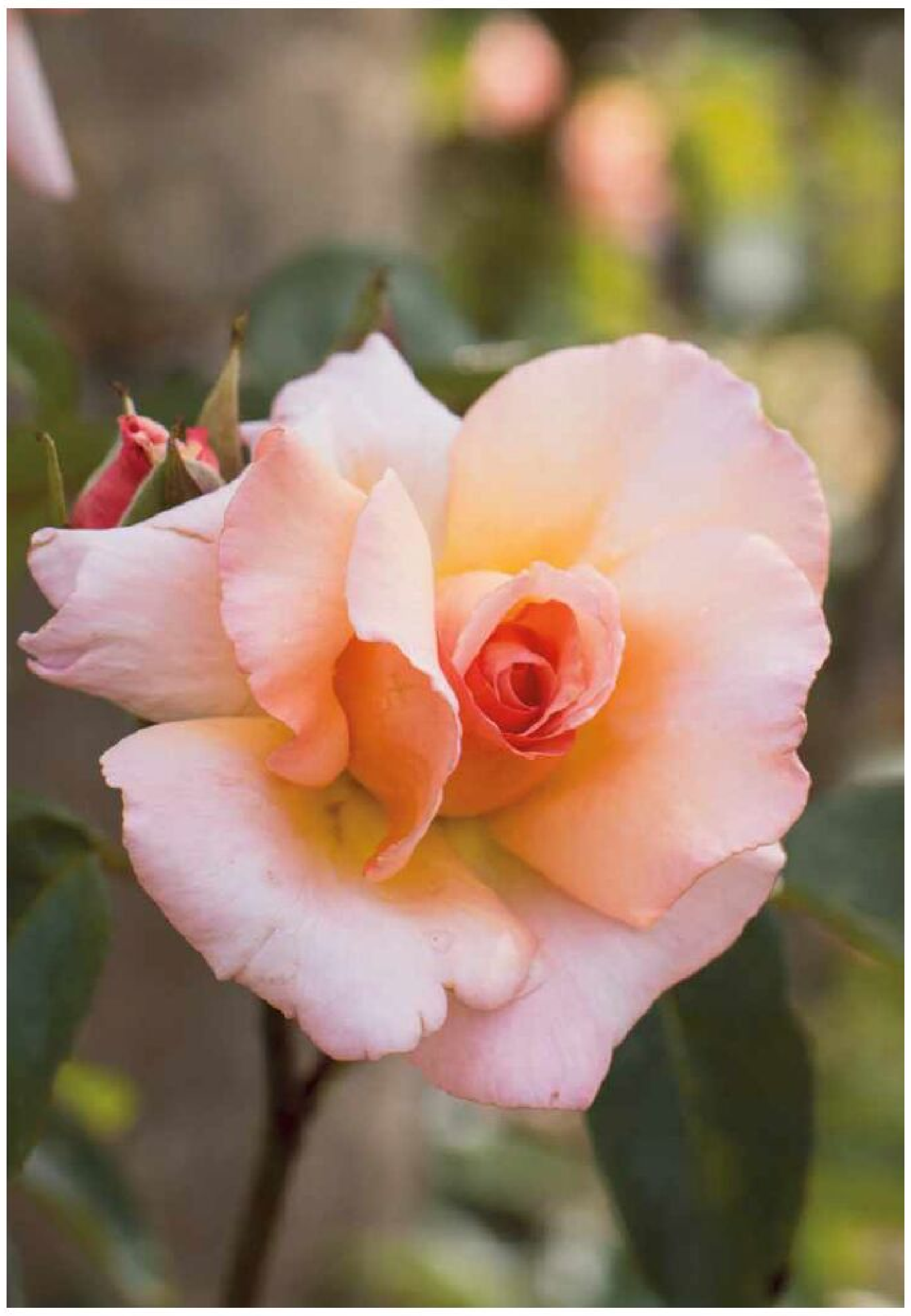
Flowers June to September

H x S 2.5m x 1.2m

'Kew Rambler'
A vigorous pink-white rambler that is ideal for growing up a wall or tree. It has lots of musk-scented flowers in midsummer and is attractive to bees.
Flowers July to August
H x S 6m x 6m







‘James Galway’

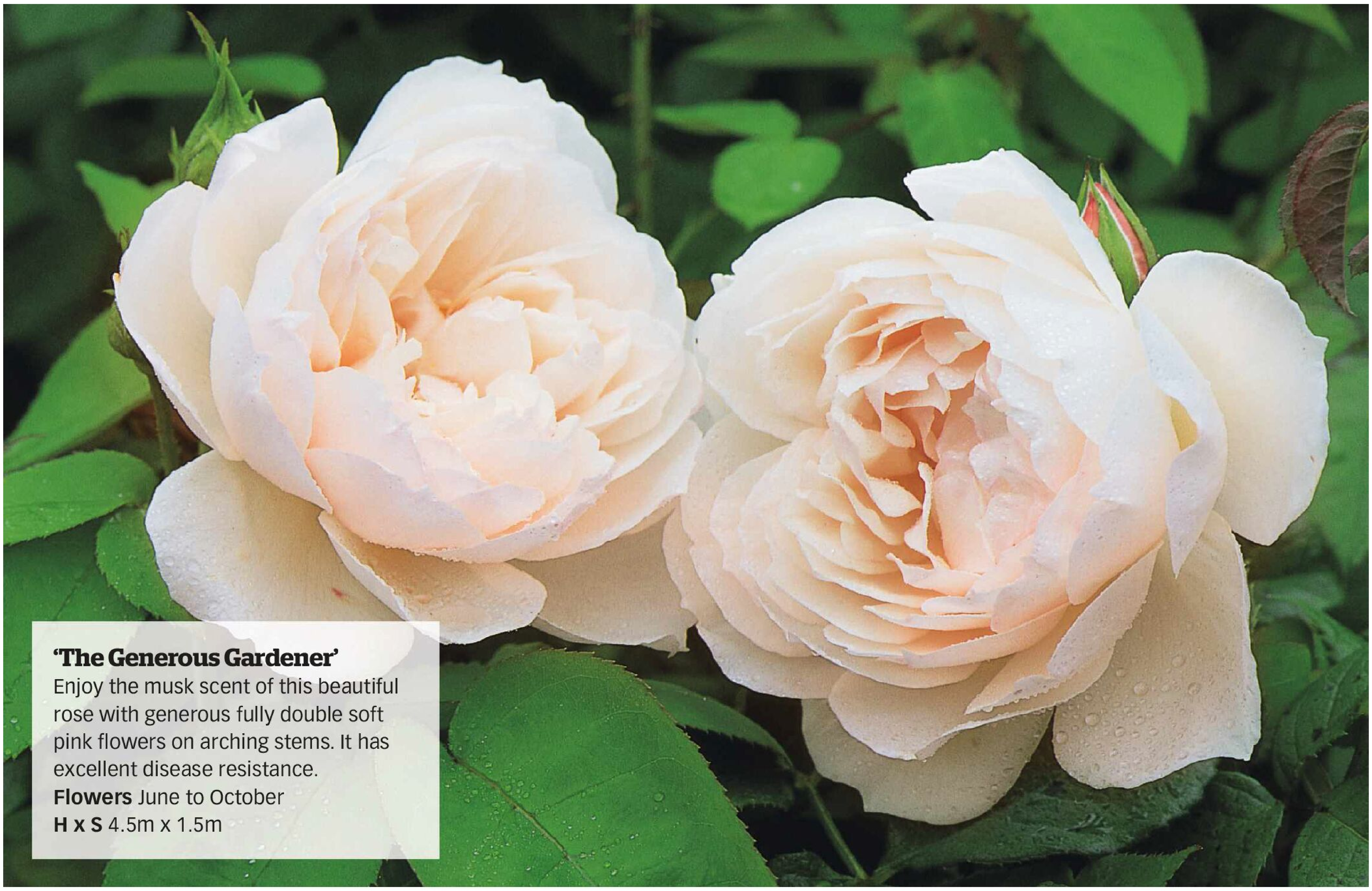
This is a vigorous climber with perfectly-formed pink blooms, mid-pink in the centre but lighter at the edges, with a gentle, fruity fragrance reminiscent of old tea roses.
Flowers June to October
H x S 3m x 1m

‘Friendship of Strangers’

Give this space to show off its beautiful white flowers that are followed by attractive hips. It’s more shade-tolerant than other roses and may even be grown up a north-facing wall.
Flowers June to October
H x S 3m x 2m

‘Compassion’

This very healthy, vigorous climber has strong, stiff stems that hold, beautifully-shaped, light-pink blooms with a coral-pink glow and a sweet perfume.
Flowers June to October
H x S 4.5m x 1.35m



‘The Generous Gardener’

Enjoy the musk scent of this beautiful rose with generous fully double soft pink flowers on arching stems. It has excellent disease resistance.
Flowers June to October
H x S 4.5m x 1.5m

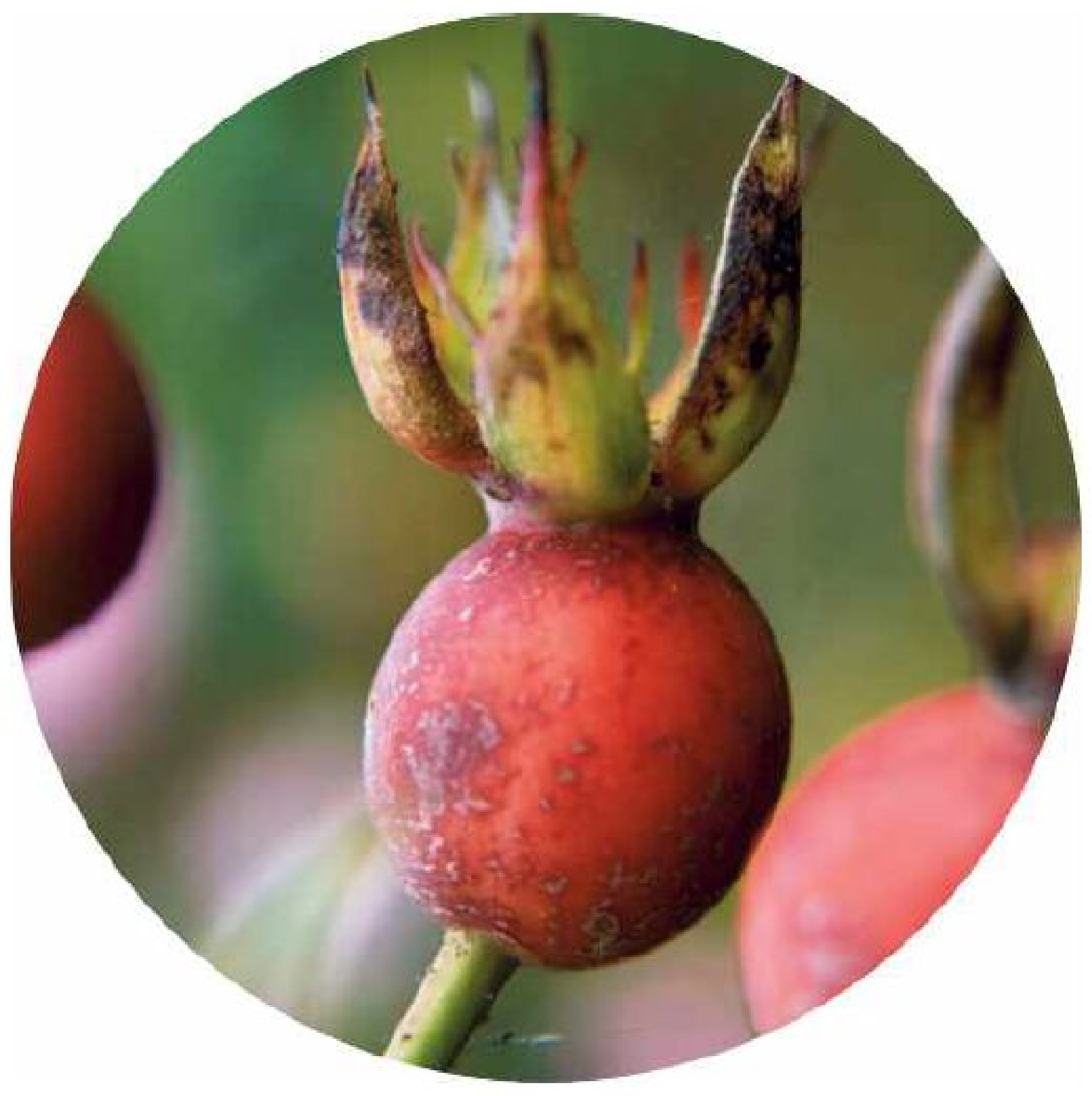
Rose hips are a
useful source
of vitamin C

FOCUS ON

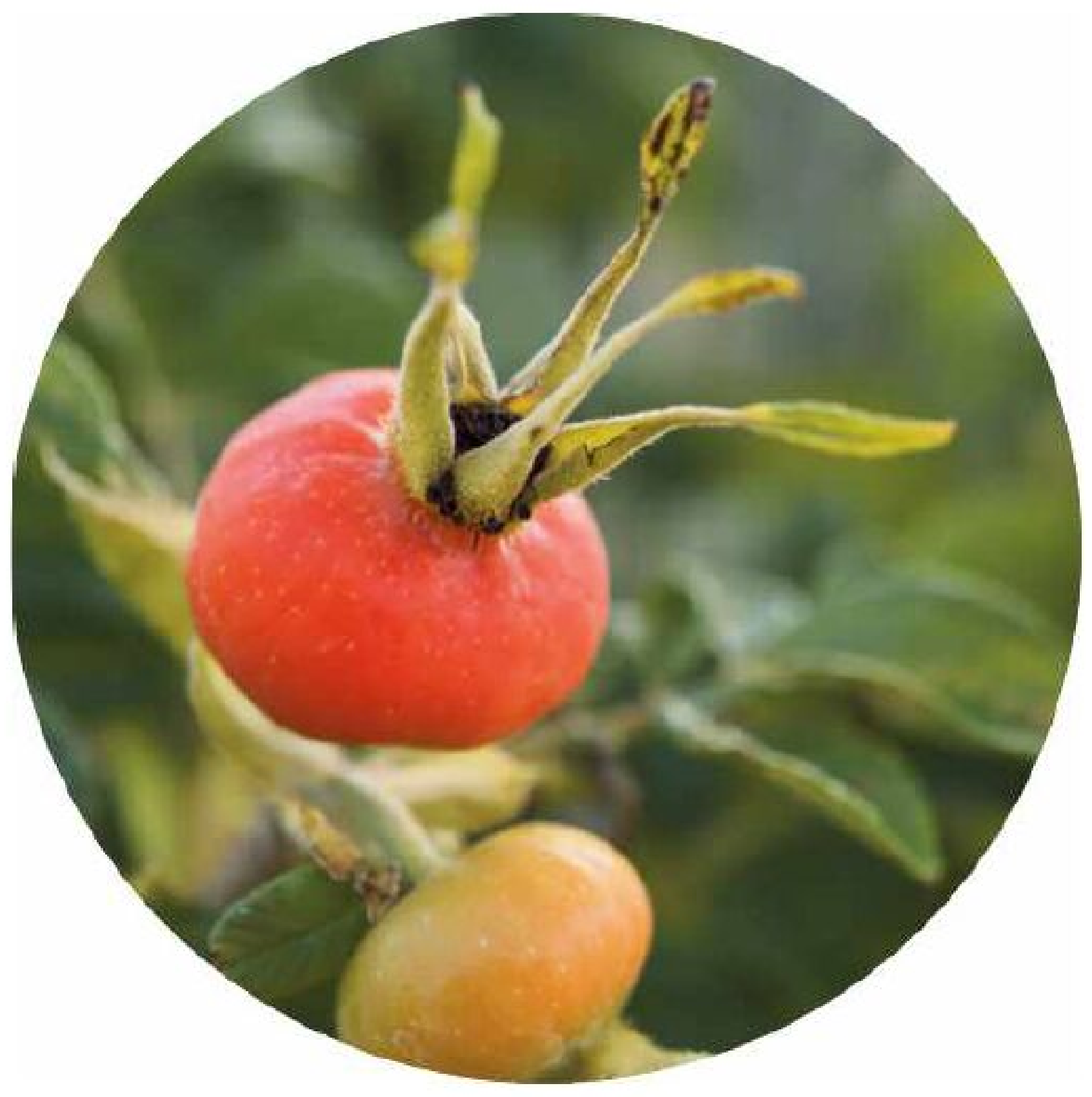
Roses for hips

The best hips are found on species roses. Often, deadheading means that gardeners never get to enjoy the sight of bold red or orange hips brightening up the winter garden. Although deadheading encourages more flowers, it's worth leaving some of the dying flowers near the end of the season as they'll turn into eye-catching hips in early autumn.

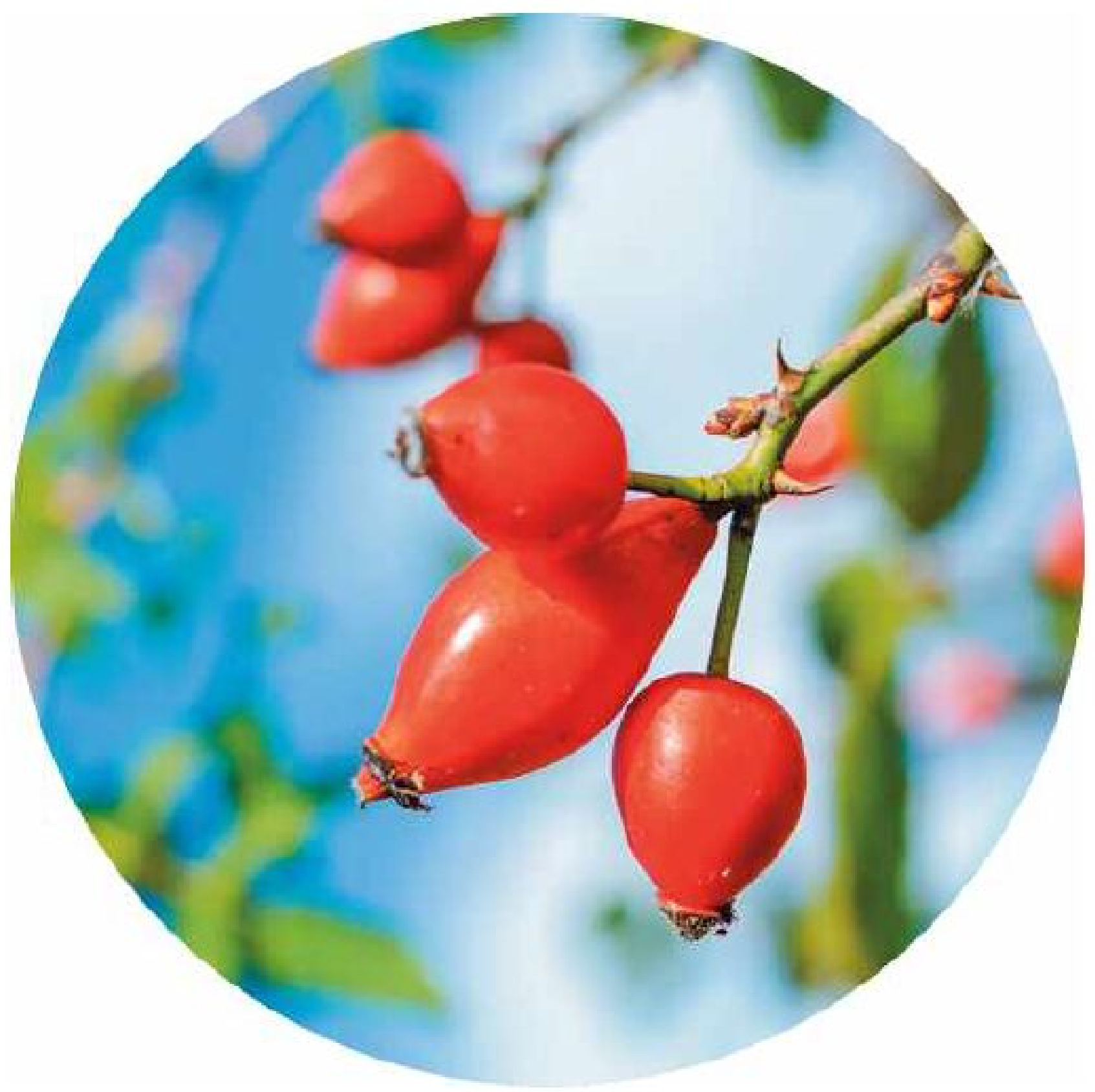
Rambler and climbing roses are good choices for hips as their trusses of flowers turn into hundreds of hips. Hips are also edible and a rich source of vitamin C, with levels up to 10 times greater than oranges. Harvest them just after the first frosts have softened them, but when they're still firm.



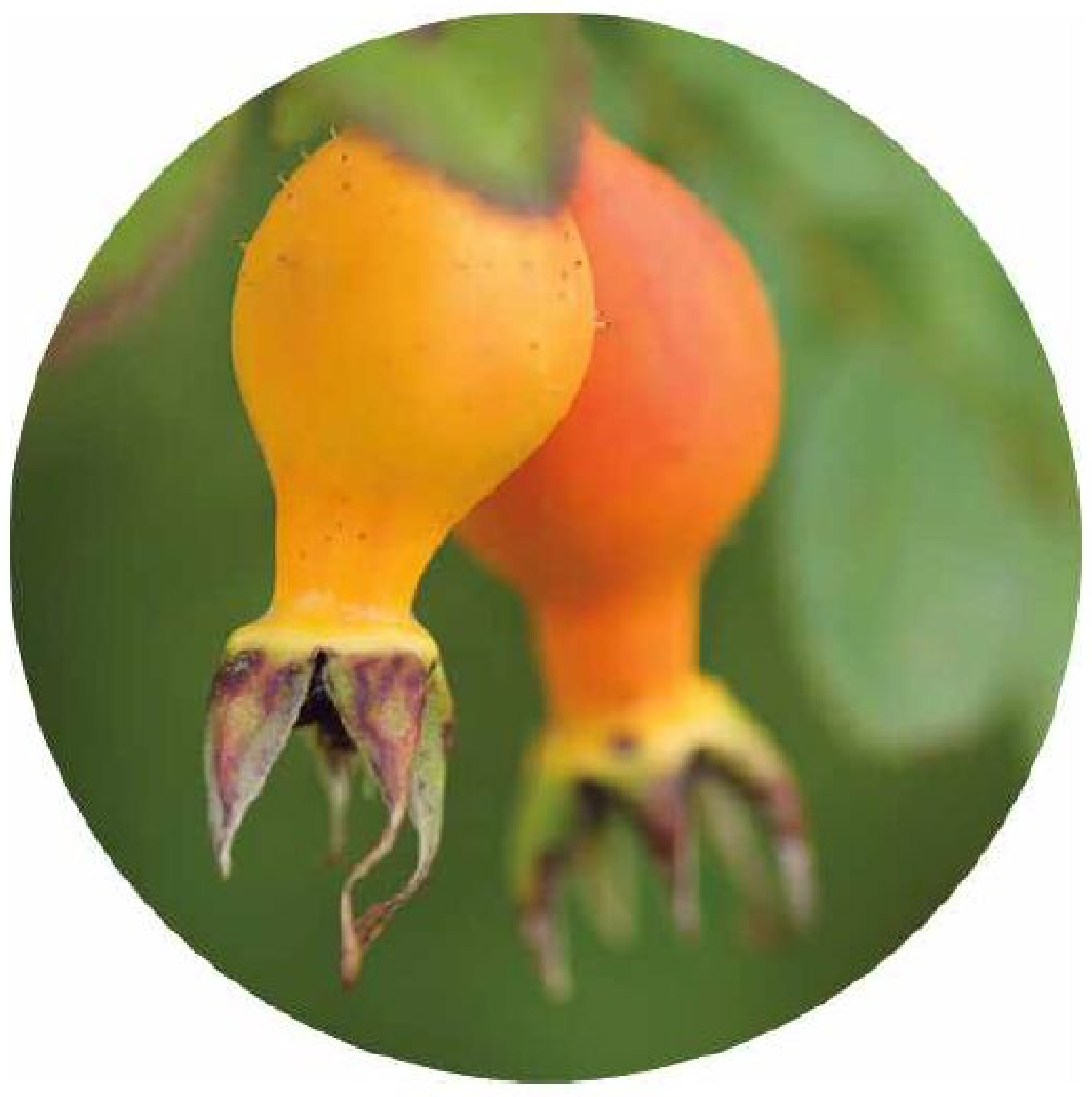
***R.* 'Bonica'**
This shrub rose has loose, slightly scented pink flowers repeating well into autumn, followed by vibrant red hips that last into winter.
Flowers July to September
H x S 1.2m x 1.2m



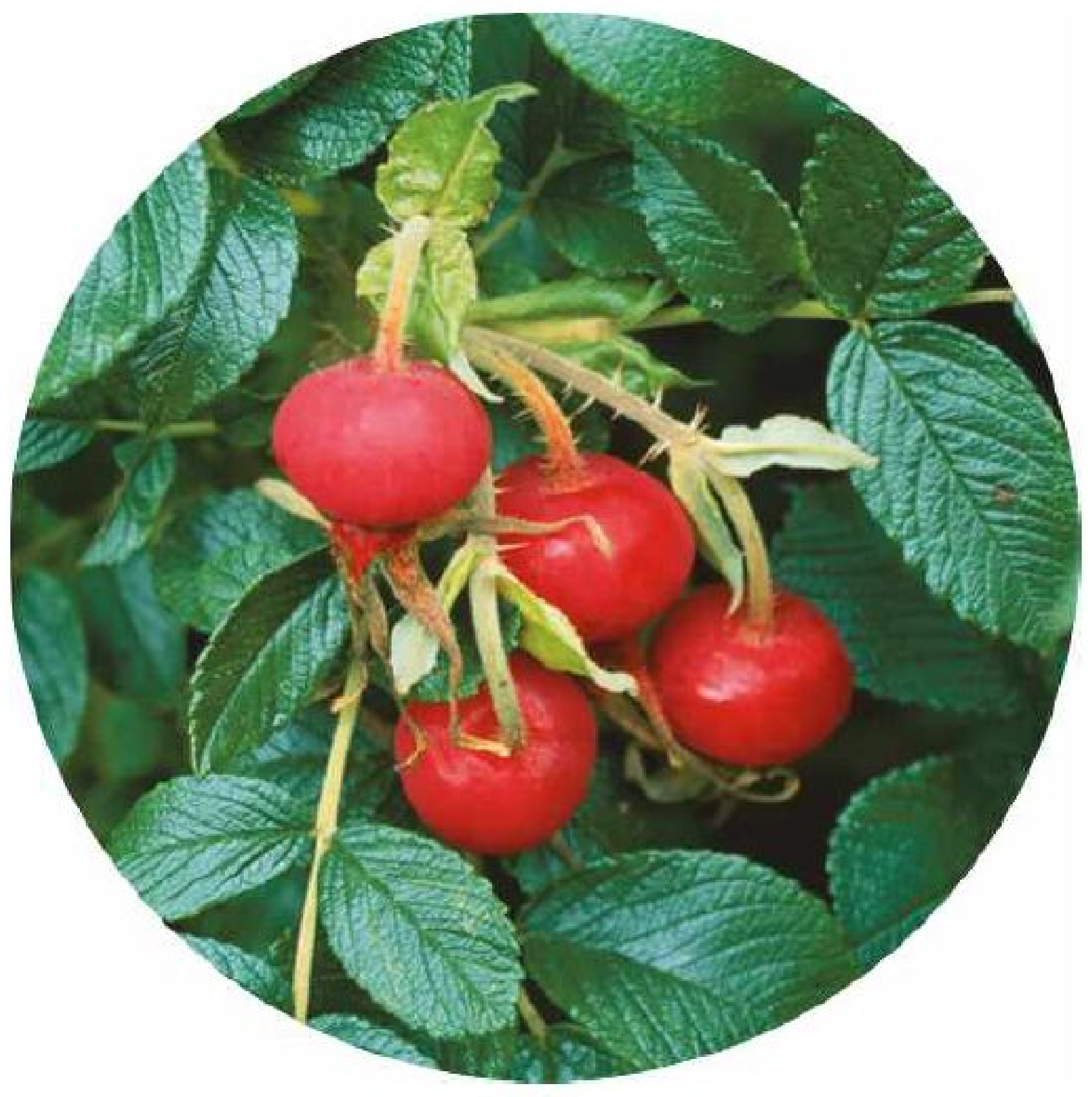
R. rugosa
These thorny shrubs are easy to grow and produce masses of flowers, followed by large, attractive hips. There are many pretty varieties available.
Flowers July to September
H x S 1.5m x 1.5m



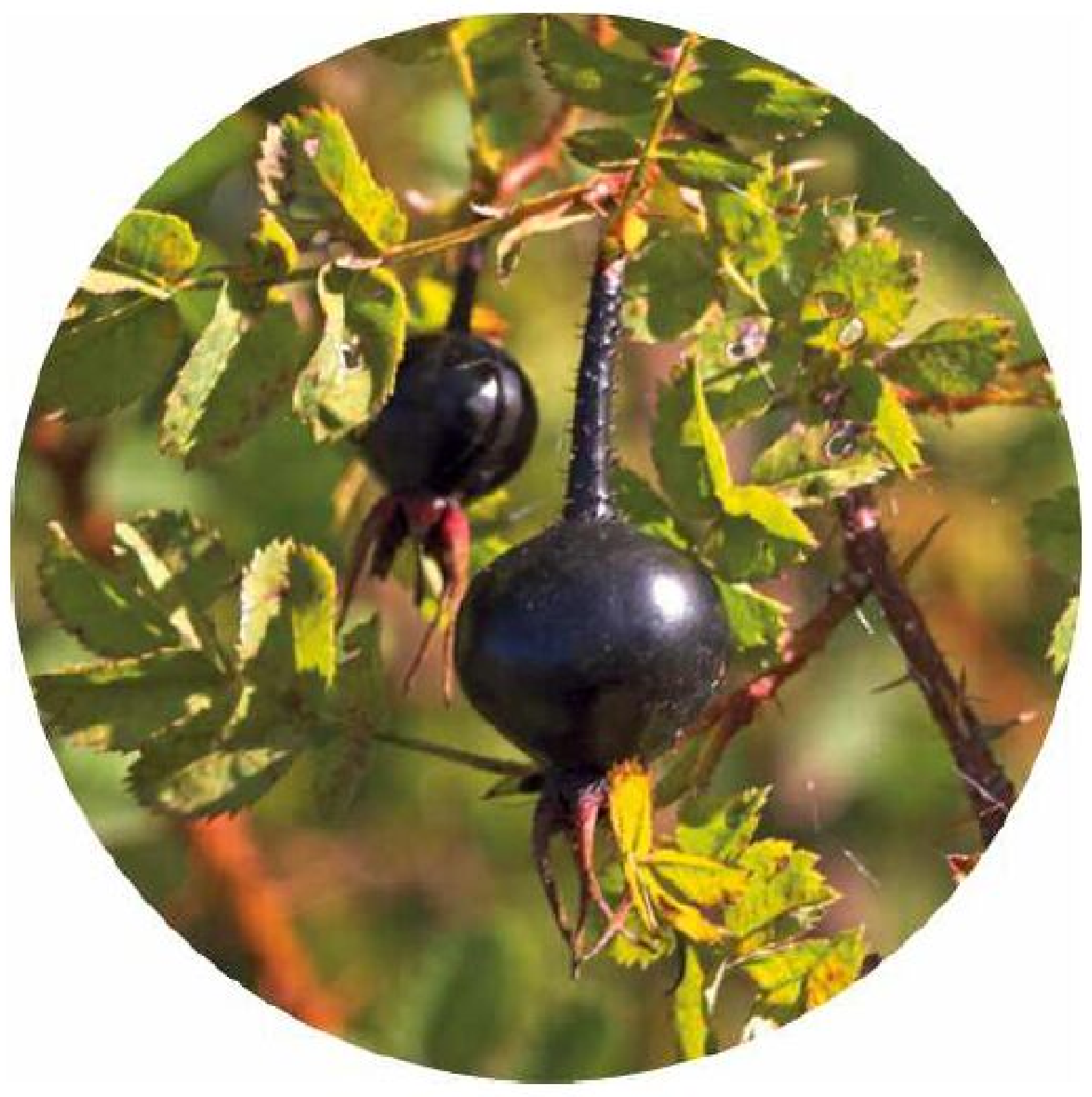
R. canina
The egg-shaped red hips of the wild dog rose, *R. canina*, are a great way to attract birds to the garden and will stand out in the winter gloom.
Flowers June to August
H x S 2m x 2m



R. moyesii
This rose is worth growing just for its elegant urn-shaped orange hips that are held on arching stems once the flowers are finished.
Flowers June to August
H x S 4m x 3m



'Fru Dagmar Hastrup'
The small orange-red hips of this variety look like cherry tomatoes. In summer, pale pink flowers cover this sturdy shrub rose.
Flowers June to August
H x S 1m x 1.2m

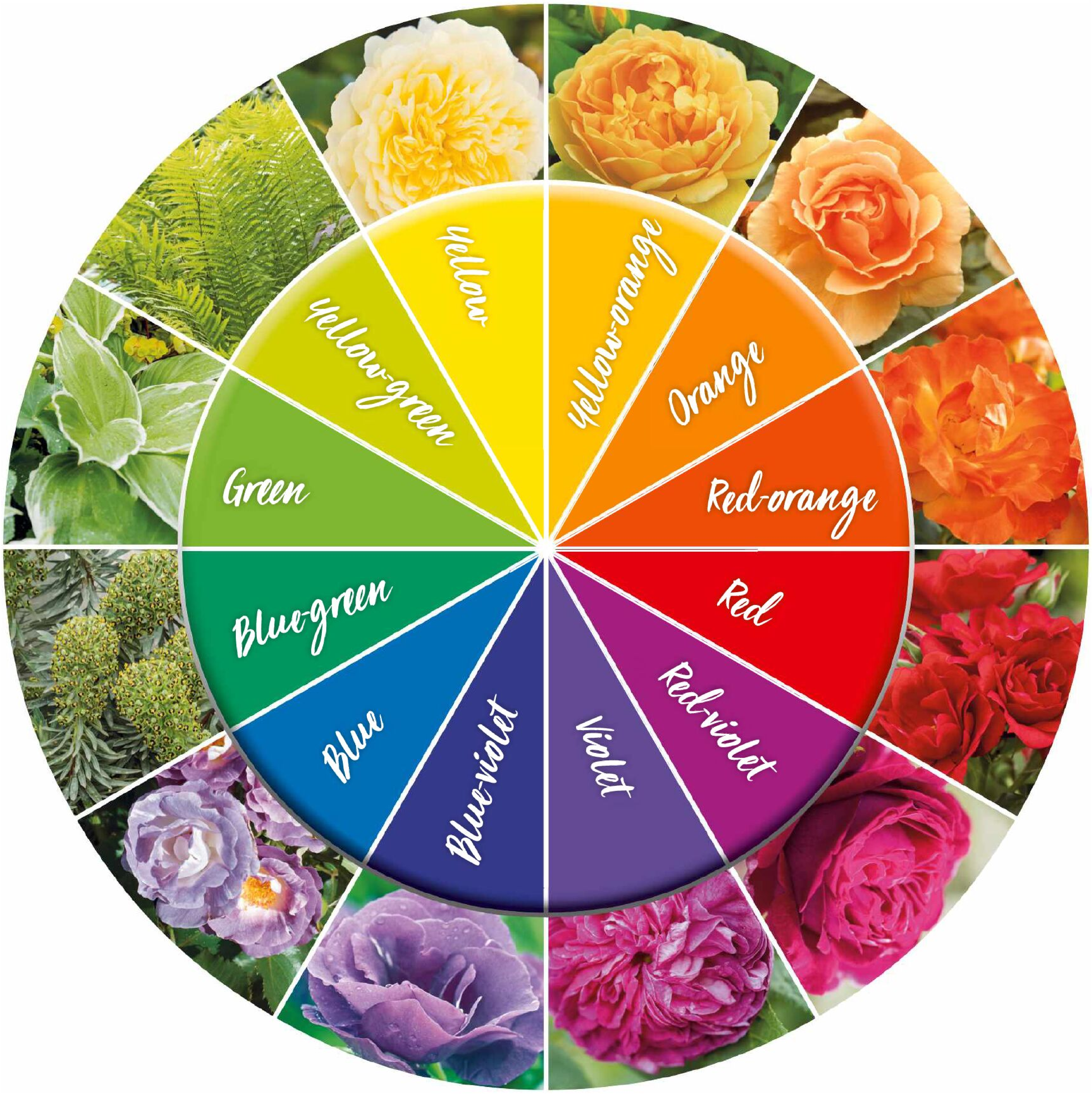


R. spinosissima
Known as the Scotch rose, this is a charming but very prickly species rose that has striking round purplish-black hips.
Flowers May to June
H x S 90cm x 1.2m

Perfect combos

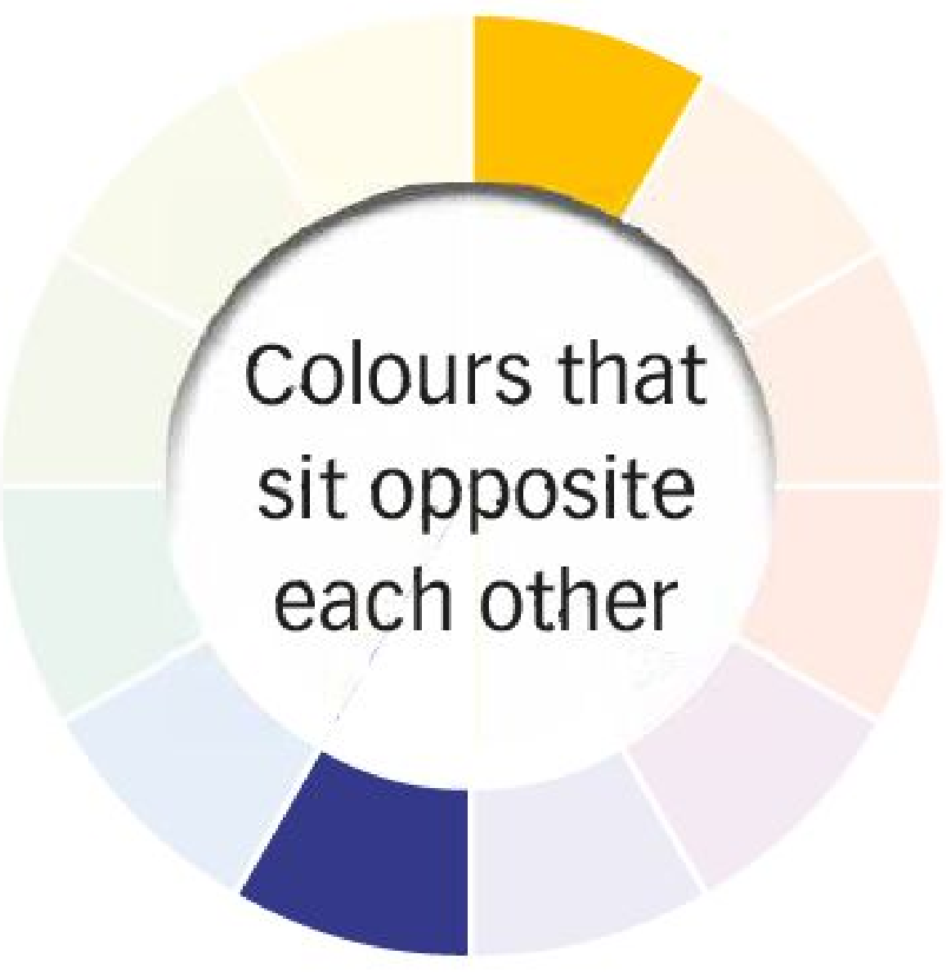
Roses make spectacular plants in their own right but they also make striking plant partners in a mixed border. Discover how to use colour to create some eye-catching combinations with our guide

A perfect pairing: deep pink roses with purple salvia


Yellow
Yellow-orange
Orange
Red-orange
Red
Red-violet
Violet
Blue-violet
Blue
Blue-green
Green
Yellow-green

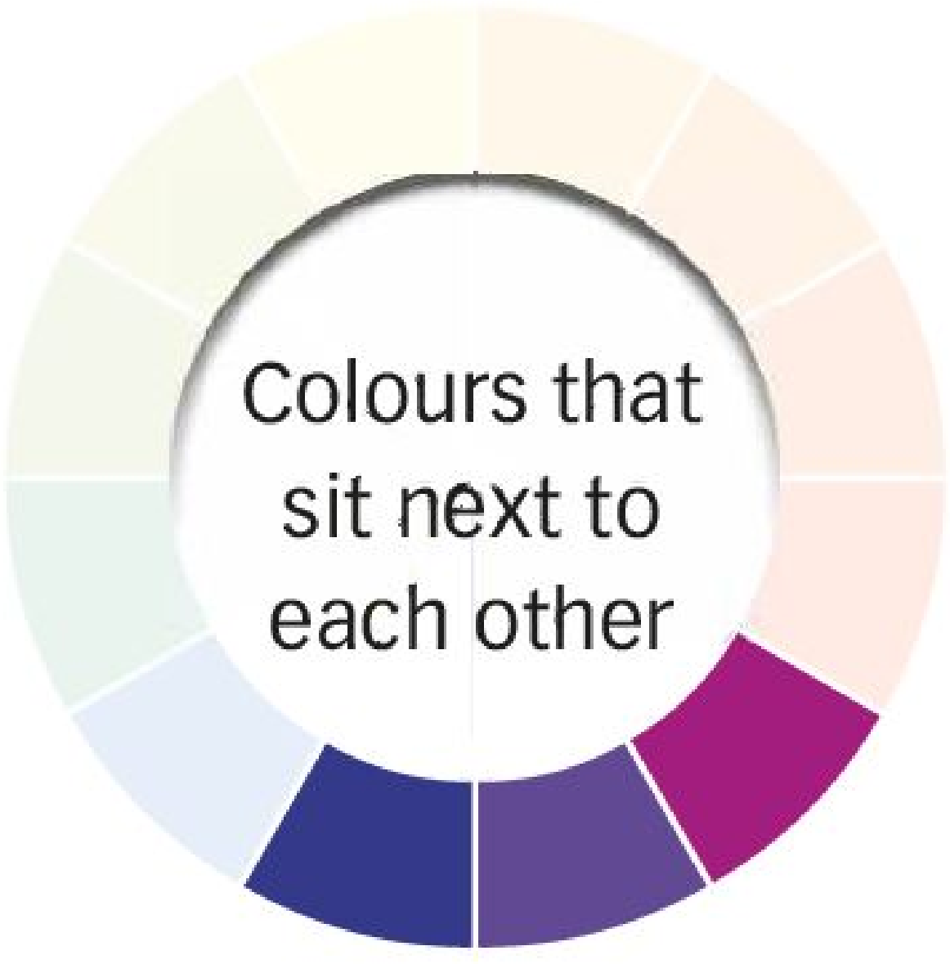
Creating with colour

Understanding colour can help transform a garden. Green is a failsafe colour but it's the other shades that bring out the personality of a plot. Use the colour wheel to select hues that complement or contrast to get different effects, from calm and soft through to vibrant and hot


Colours that
sit opposite
each other

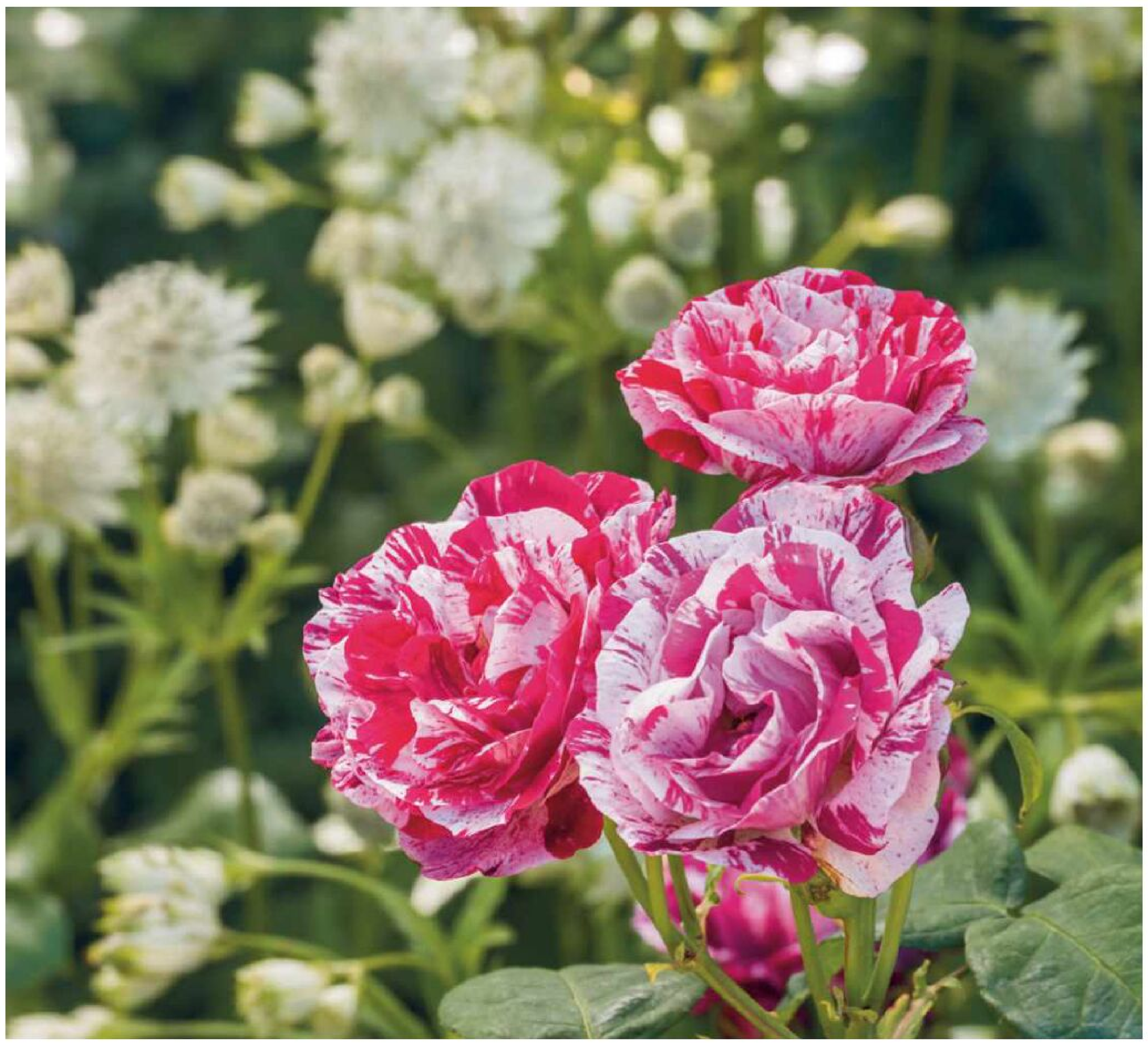
Complementary

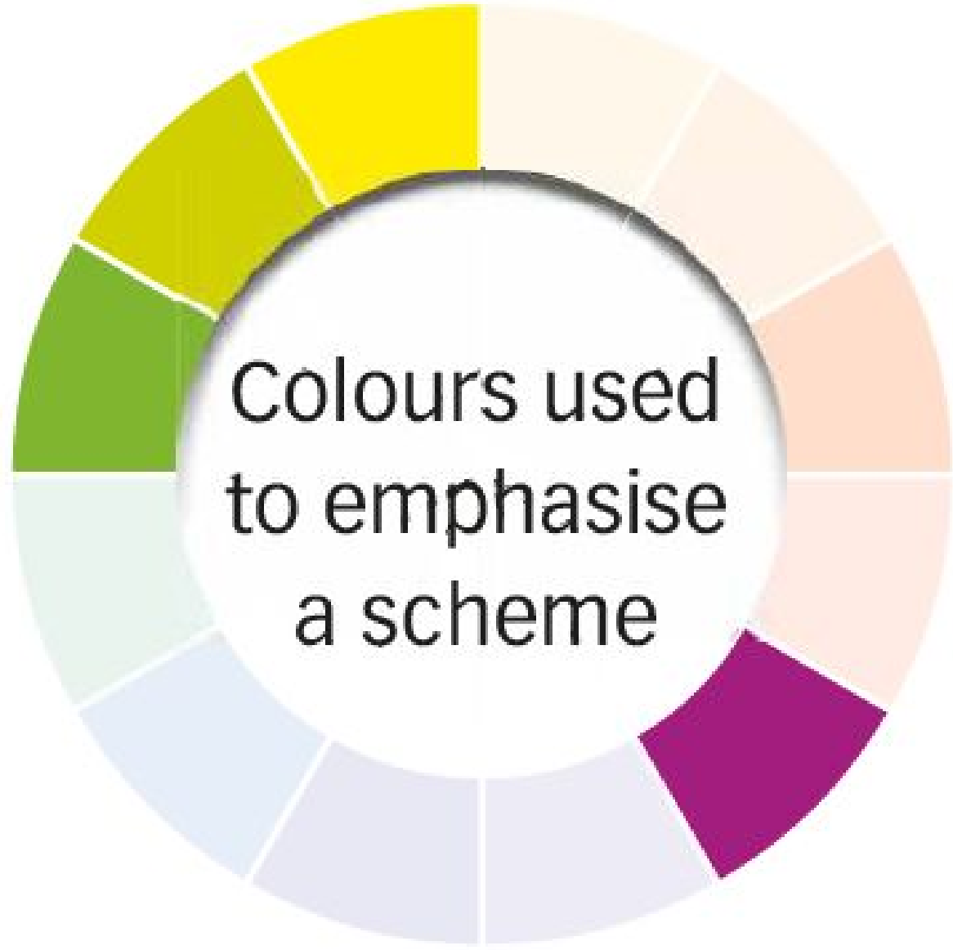
Sitting directly opposite each other (or sometimes three colours spaced evenly around the wheel), complementary hues create a punchier feel than harmonious shades. Purple and yellow, orange and blue – these colours uplift your mood and work well with light foliage woven through the scheme.


Colours that
sit next to
each other

Harmonious

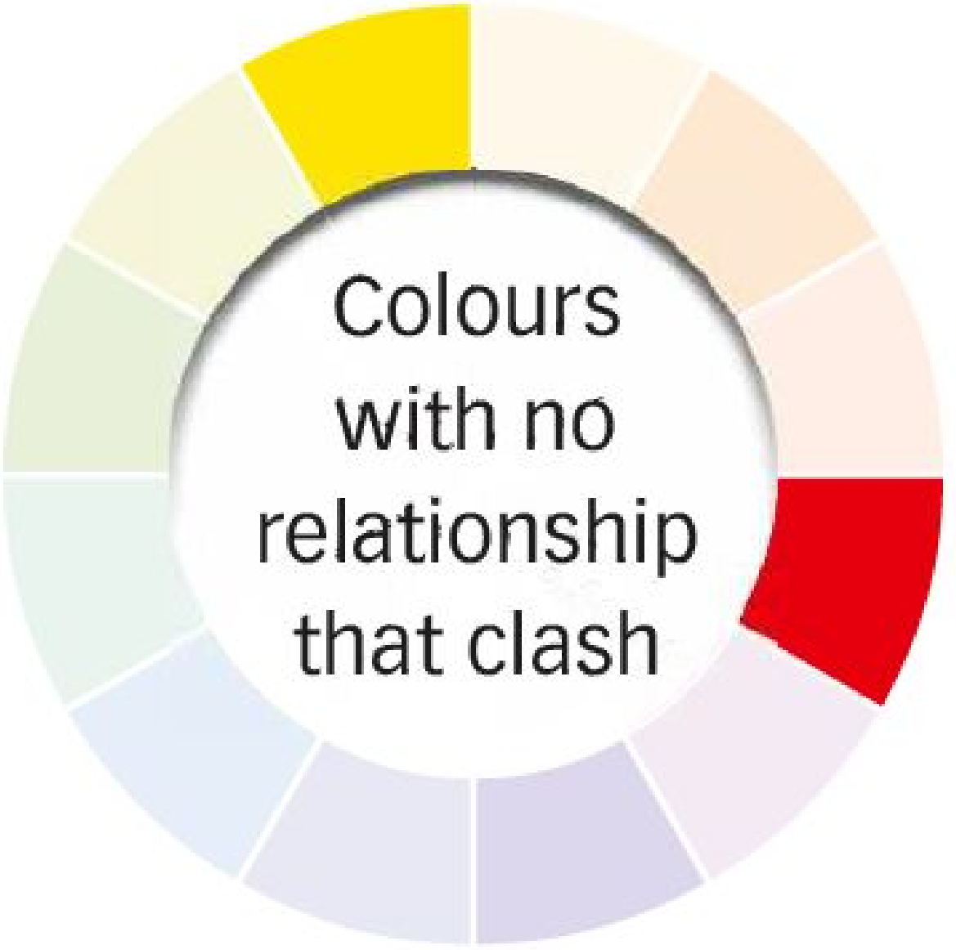
Colours that work in harmony sit next to each other on the wheel. To create balance, select in threes. It is usual for one of those colours to be dominant, with the others as background highlights. Hot as well as cool shades can create harmonious effects – just keep the tones to the right spectrum.




Colours used
to emphasise
a scheme

Accent

If you like using harmonious colours but still crave an element of oomph within your scheme, adding an accent colour is for you. It's a simple idea, but one that works particularly well – by dropping a single blue or purple plant into a sea of yellow or orange, for example, you can add significant impact.

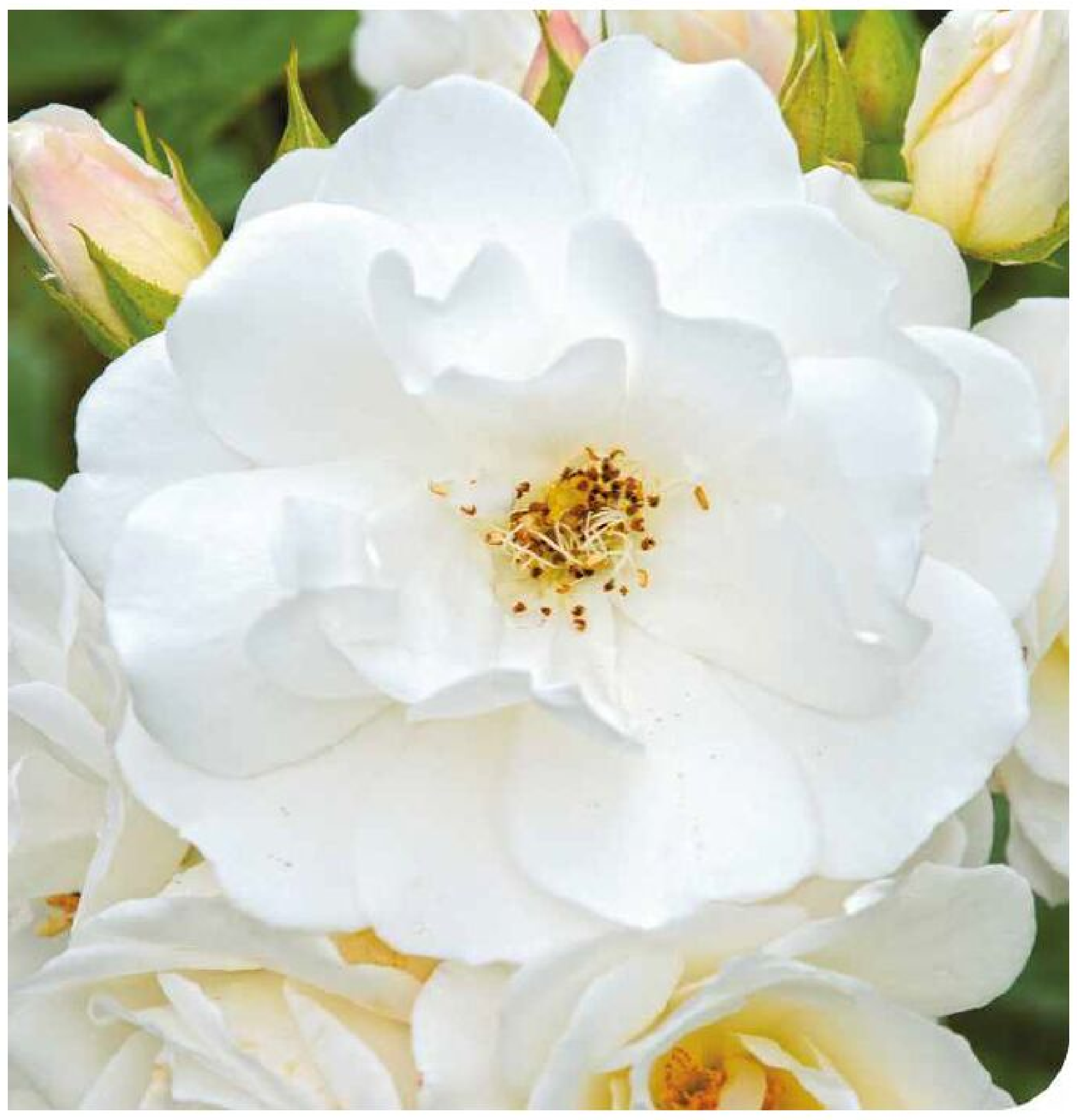

Colours
with no
relationship
that clash

Clashing

The effect of clashing colours is really dynamic. Plant what you love, where you want and when you want. If in doubt, work with no more than five clashing colours in bold swathes. Use lots of green as a linking element – it will stop a clashing scheme from being too much to absorb.

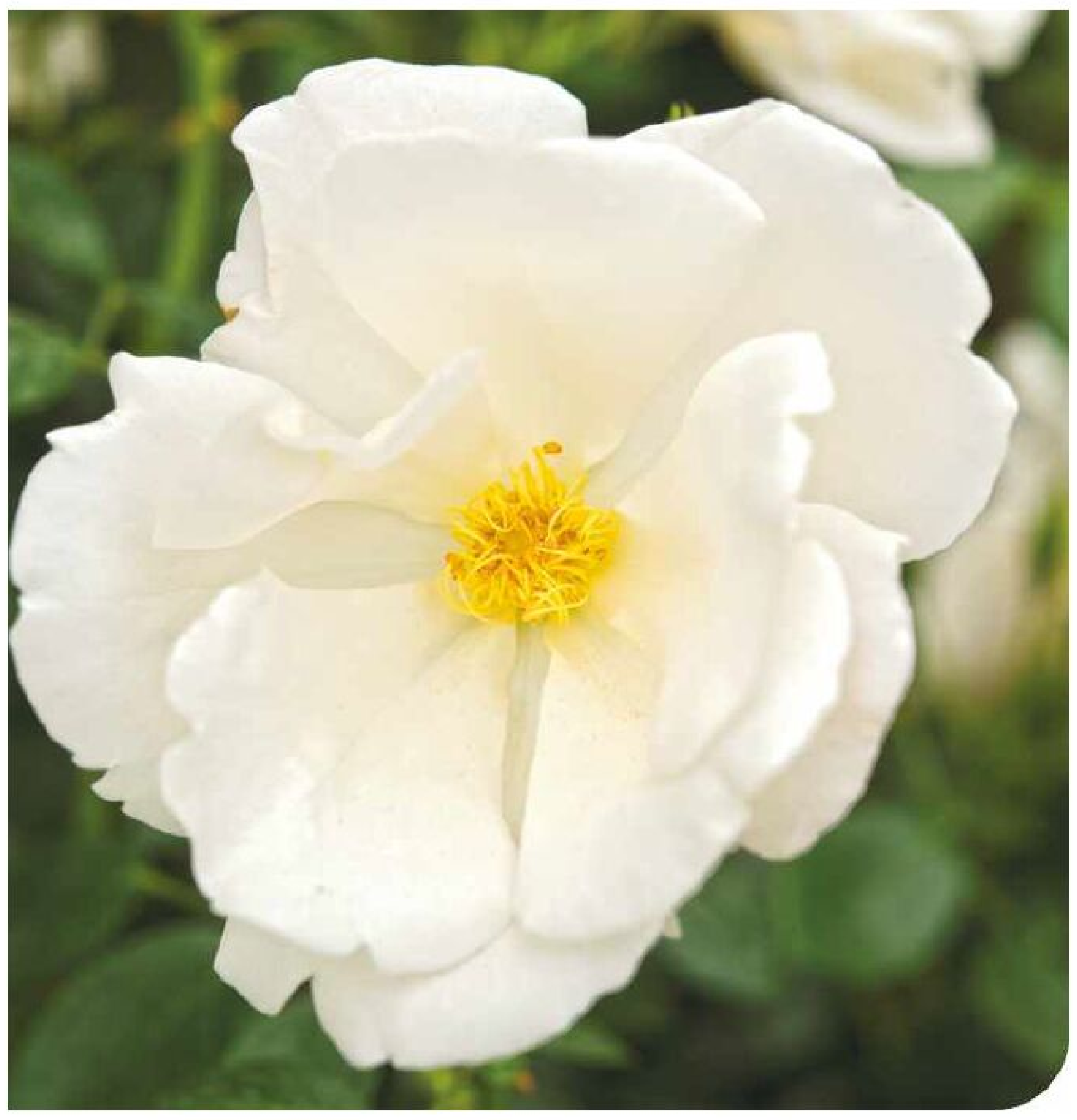
Whites, yellows & oranges

White is the lightest, brightest hue and helps create a feeling of space, making adjacent colours seem deeper in contrast, while yellows and oranges attract the eye. Yellow and orange plants will appear close, and swathes of these colours look good when broken up with purples or blues



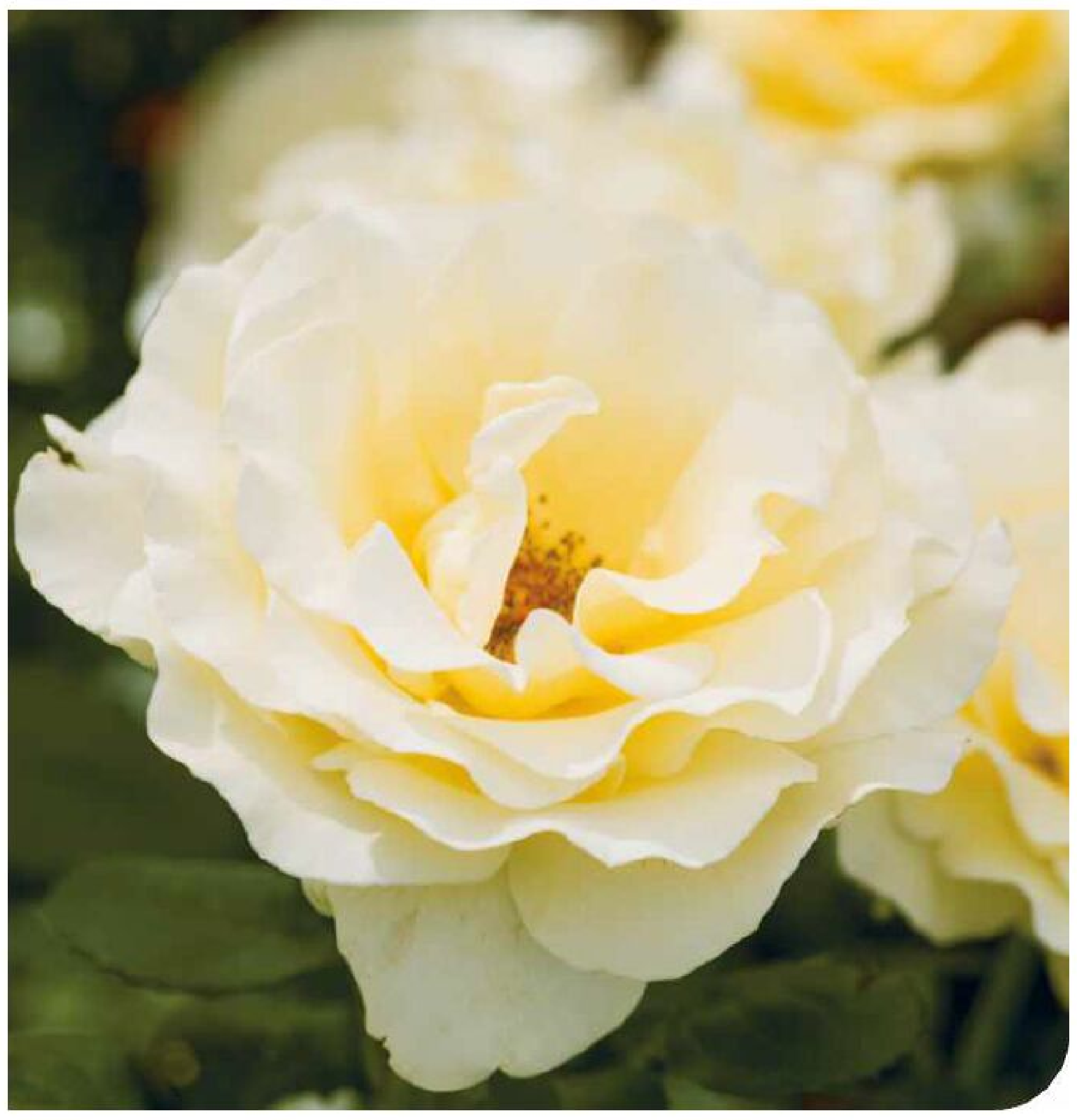
Pure white

A floribunda rose like 'Iceberg' adds freshness and easily combines with other hues.
Flowers July to October **H x S** 1.2m x 65cm



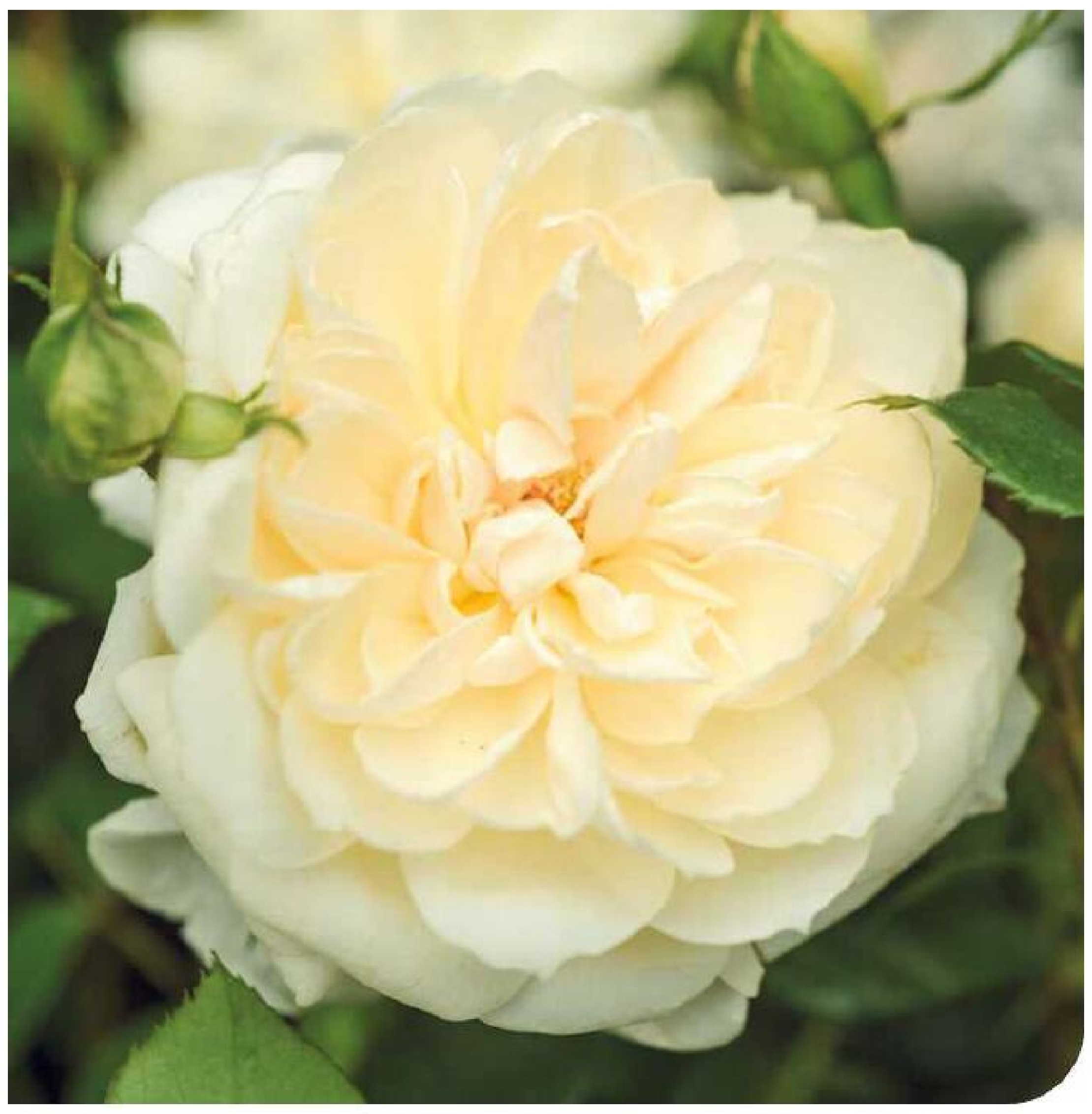
Creamy white

With its hint of cream, the white of 'Friendship of Strangers' is a slightly softer shade.
Flowers June to September **H x S** 3m x 2m



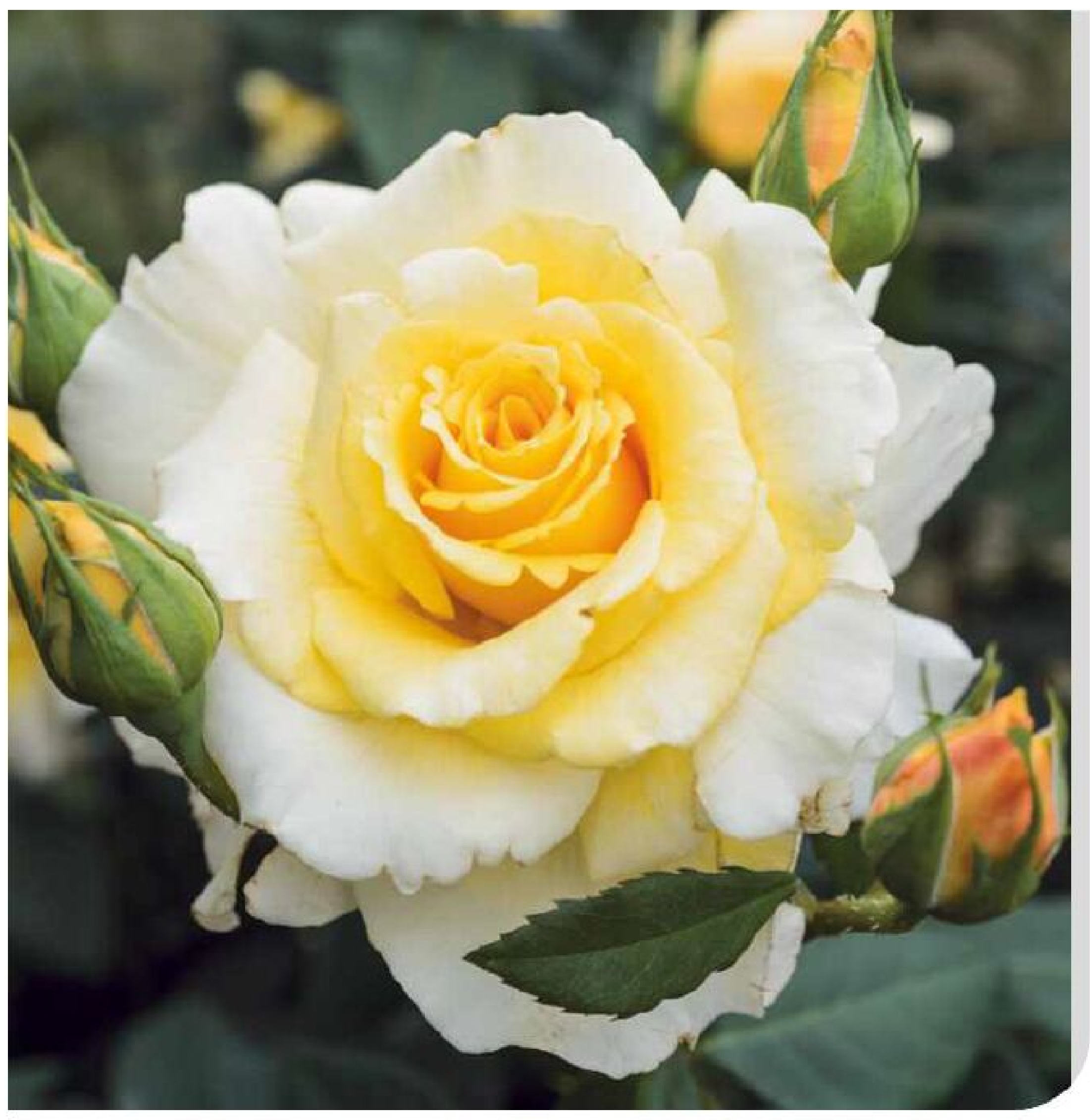
Pale primrose yellow

There's a touch of yellow in the pretty hybrid tea 'Elina', which has a light citrus scent.
Flowers July to November **H x S** 1m x 1m



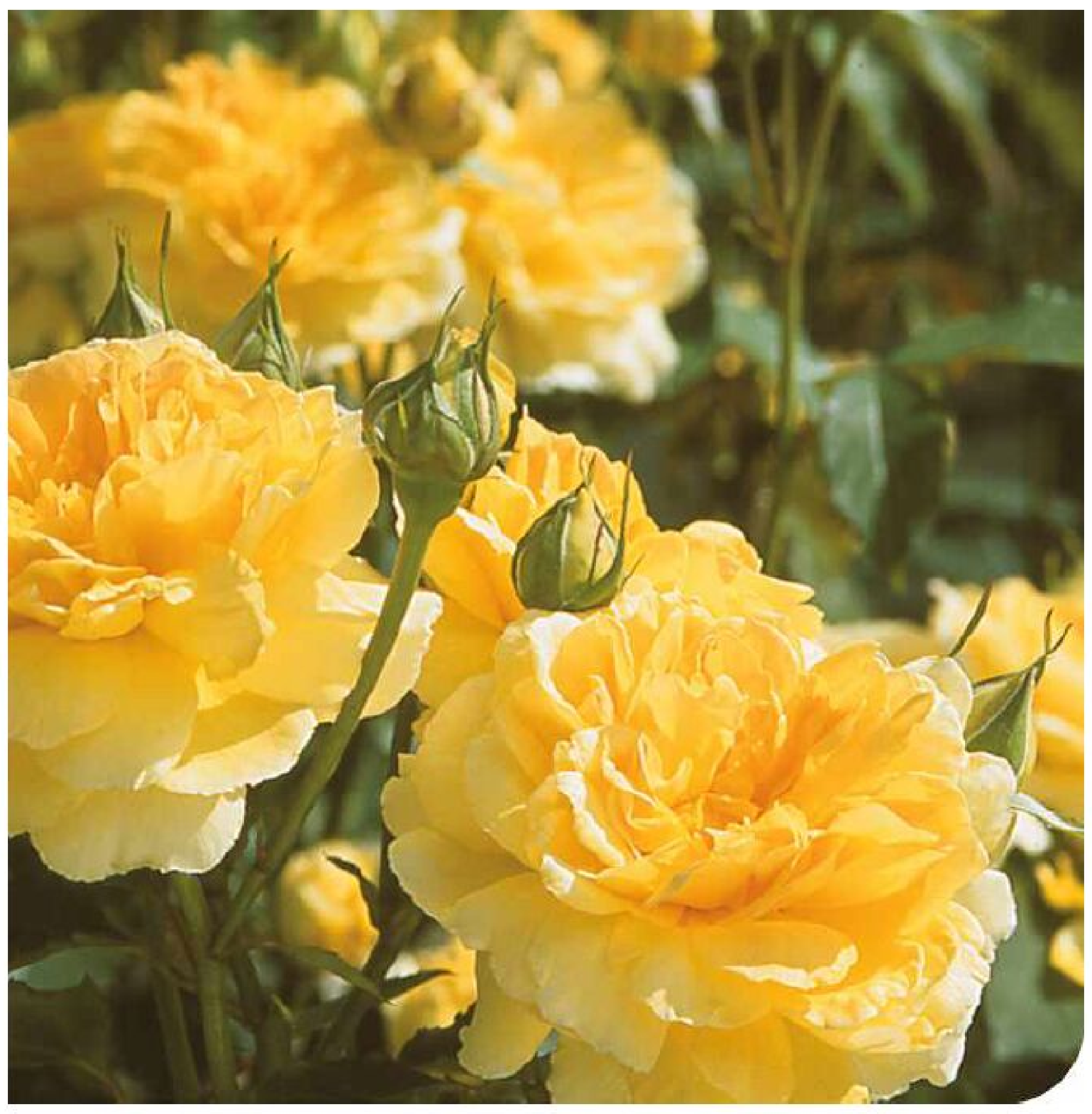
White with peach

There are many shades of white – 'Queen's Jubilee Rose' has hints of peach in summer.
Flowers June to August **H x S** 90cm x 60cm



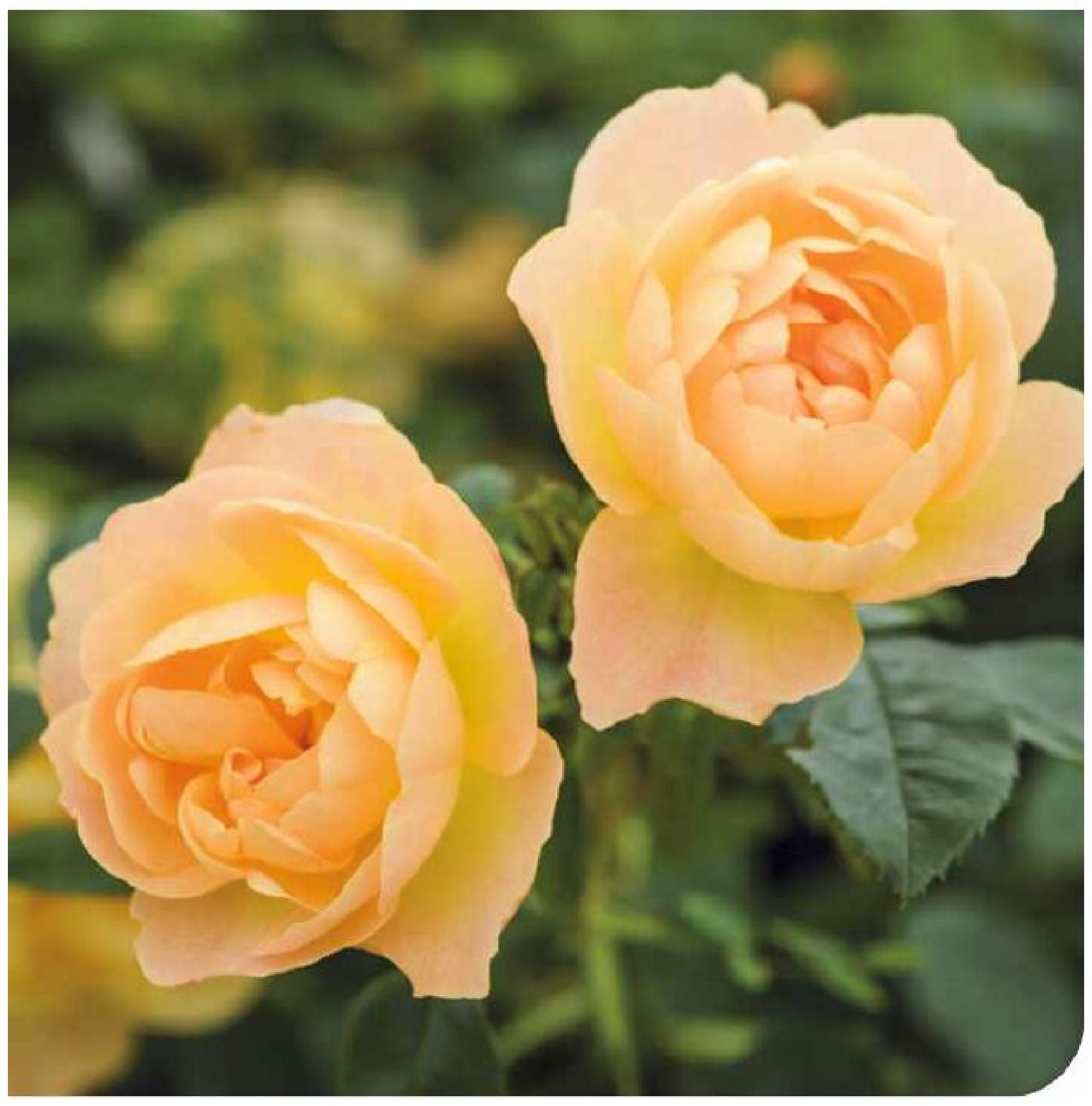
Soft yellow

Light yellow flowers are easy to combine in borders, and 'Sunny Sky' is neat and compact.
Flowers June to October **H x S** 75cm x 75cm



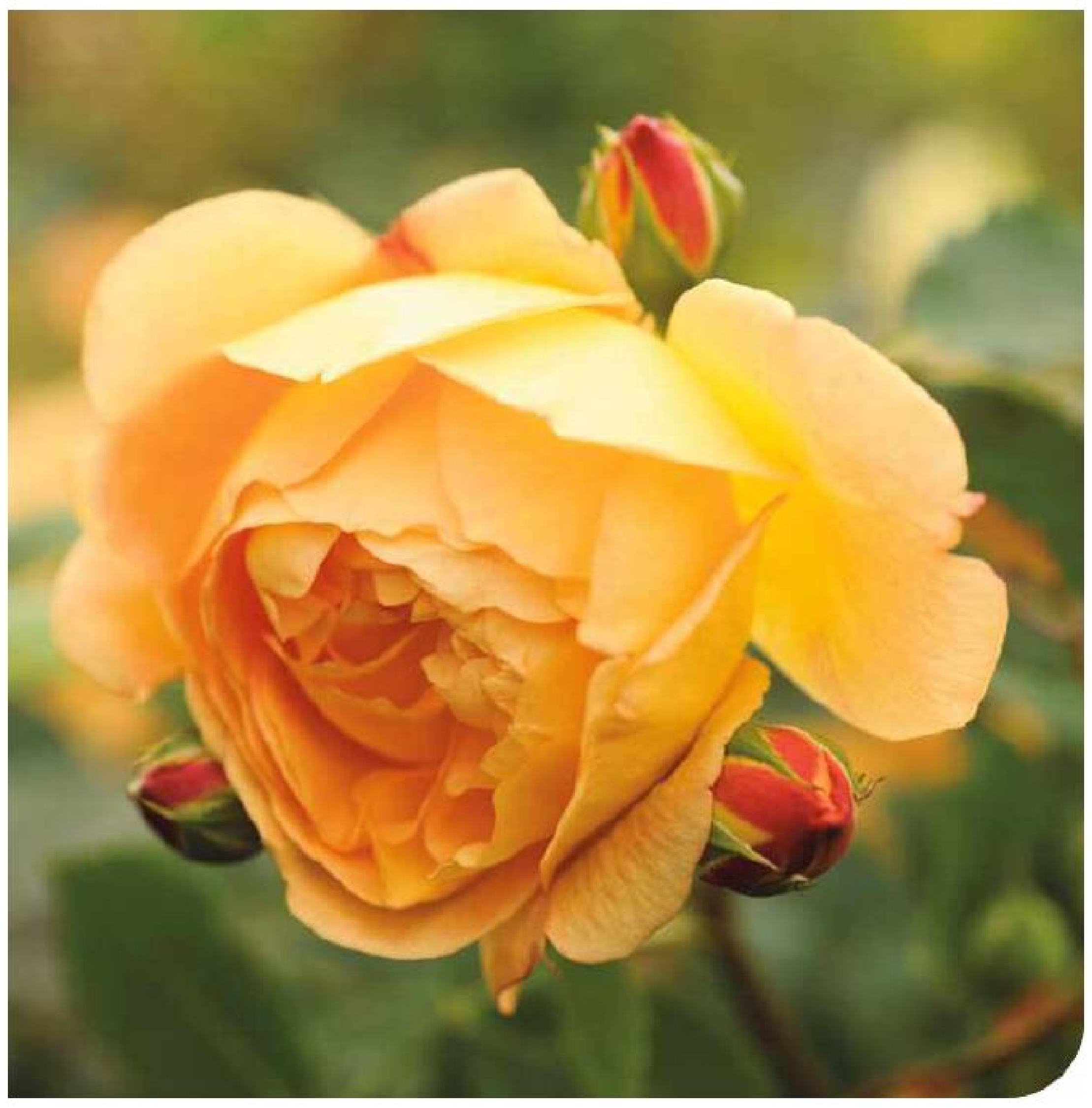
Deep yellow

The flowers of 'Molineux' have hints of orange on opening, turning to a rich yellow.
Flowers June to October **H x S** 90cm x 60cm



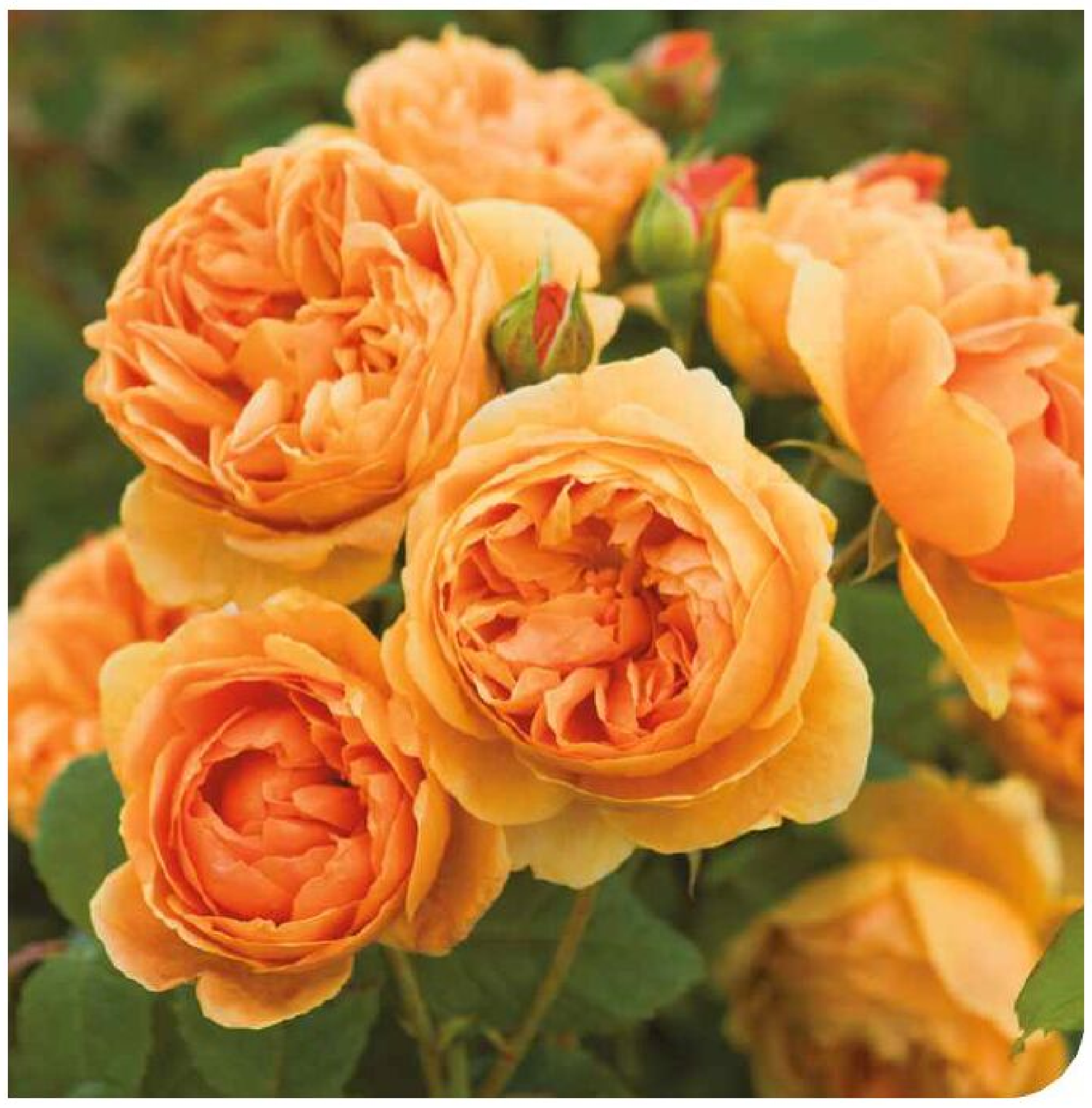
Golden apricot

Moving into the warmer shades, apricot-coloured roses include 'The Lark Ascending'.
Flowers June to October **H x S** 1.5m x 1.5m



Apricot orange

Try beautiful orange 'Lady of Shalott' with purple perennials for a dazzling border display.
Flowers June to November **H x S** 1.3m x 1.3m

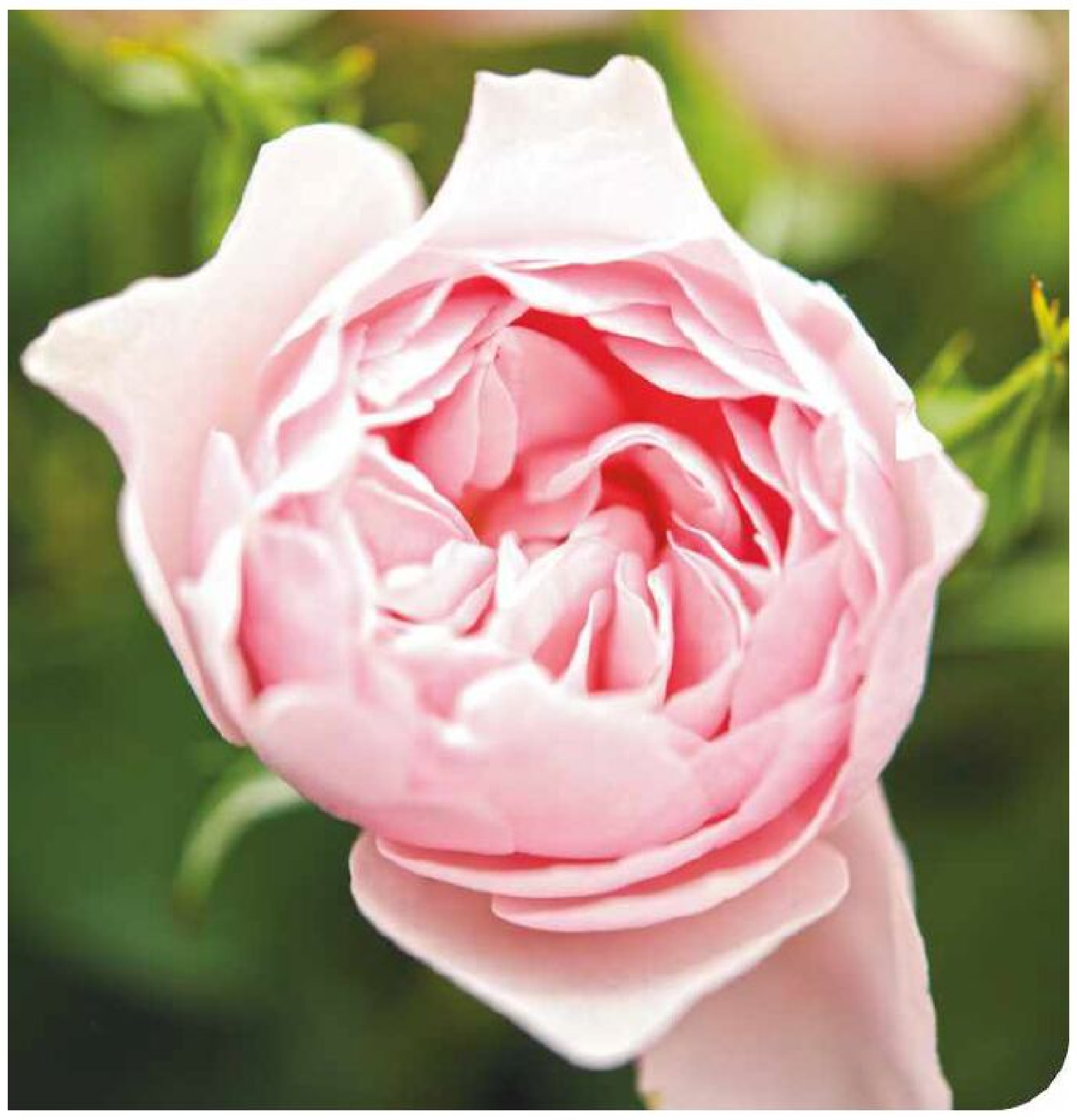


Apricot to gold

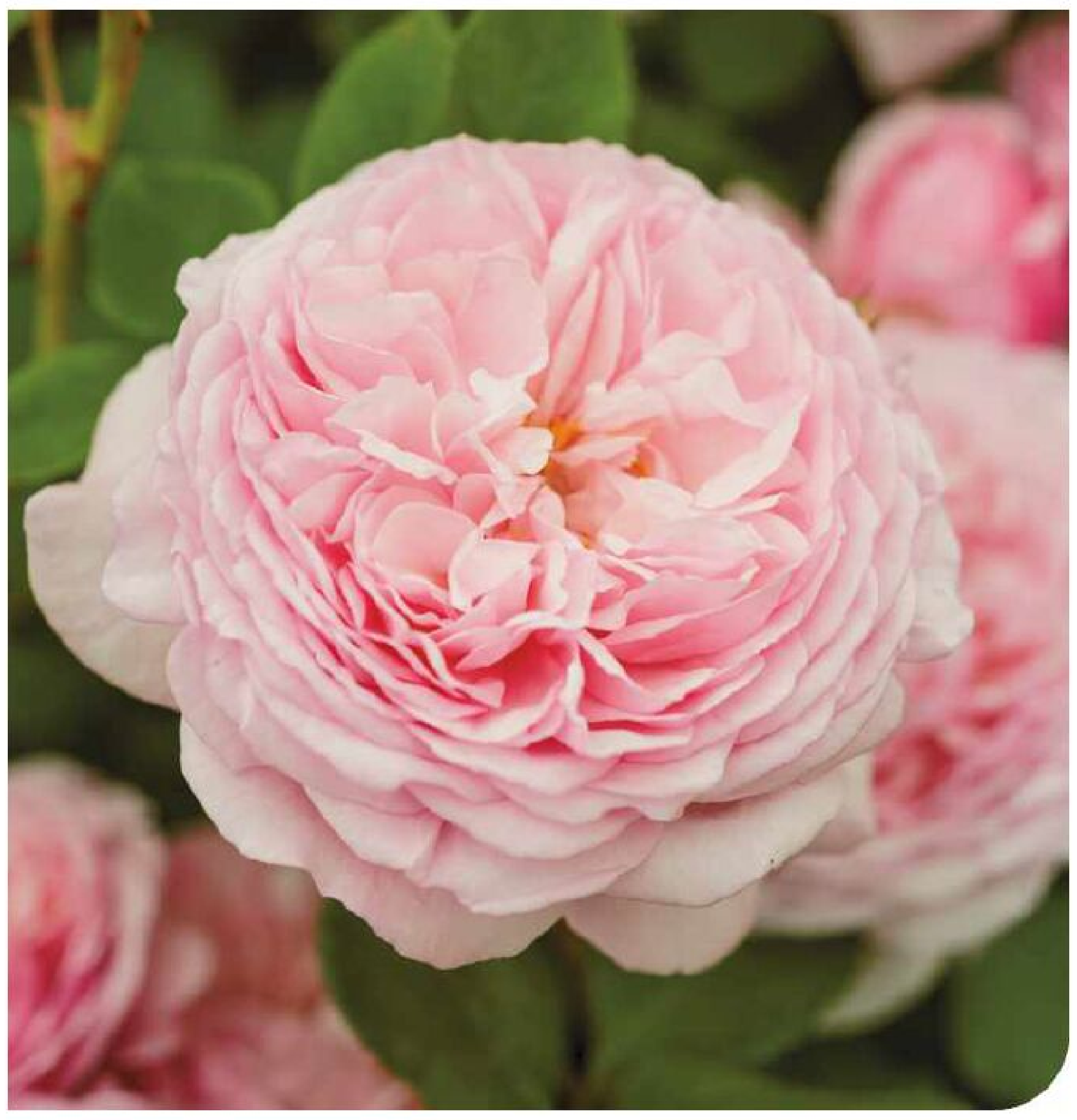
'Carolyn Knight' matures from apricot through to soft gold and is almost thornless.
Flowers June to October **H x S** 1.3m x 1m

Pinks, reds & purples

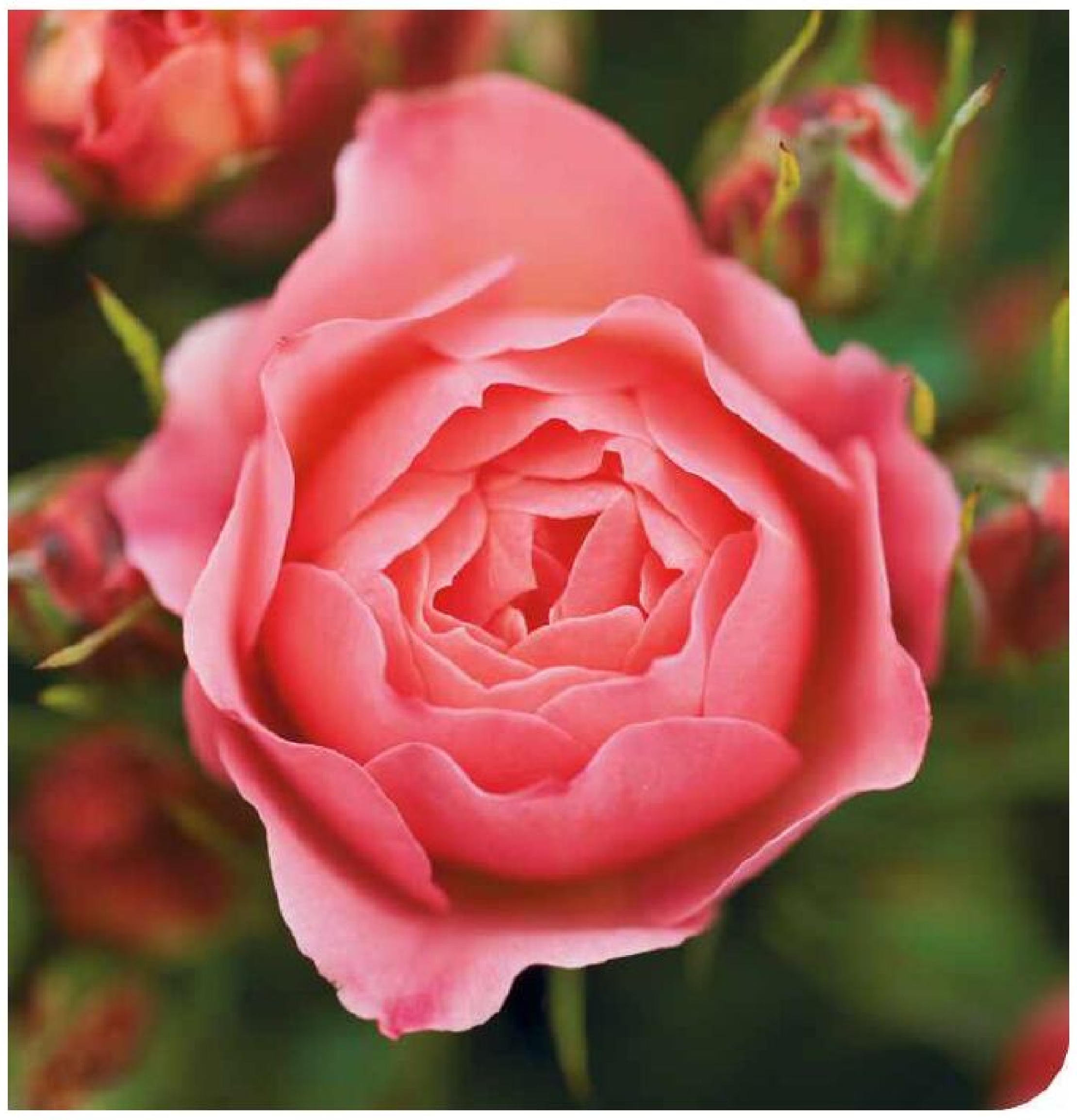
Pink is, of course, a shade of red but has a very different effect – use pink roses for a tranquil look and red for a scheme with vibrant impact. Deep red and purple roses will transform a border with their rich shades and luxurious feel



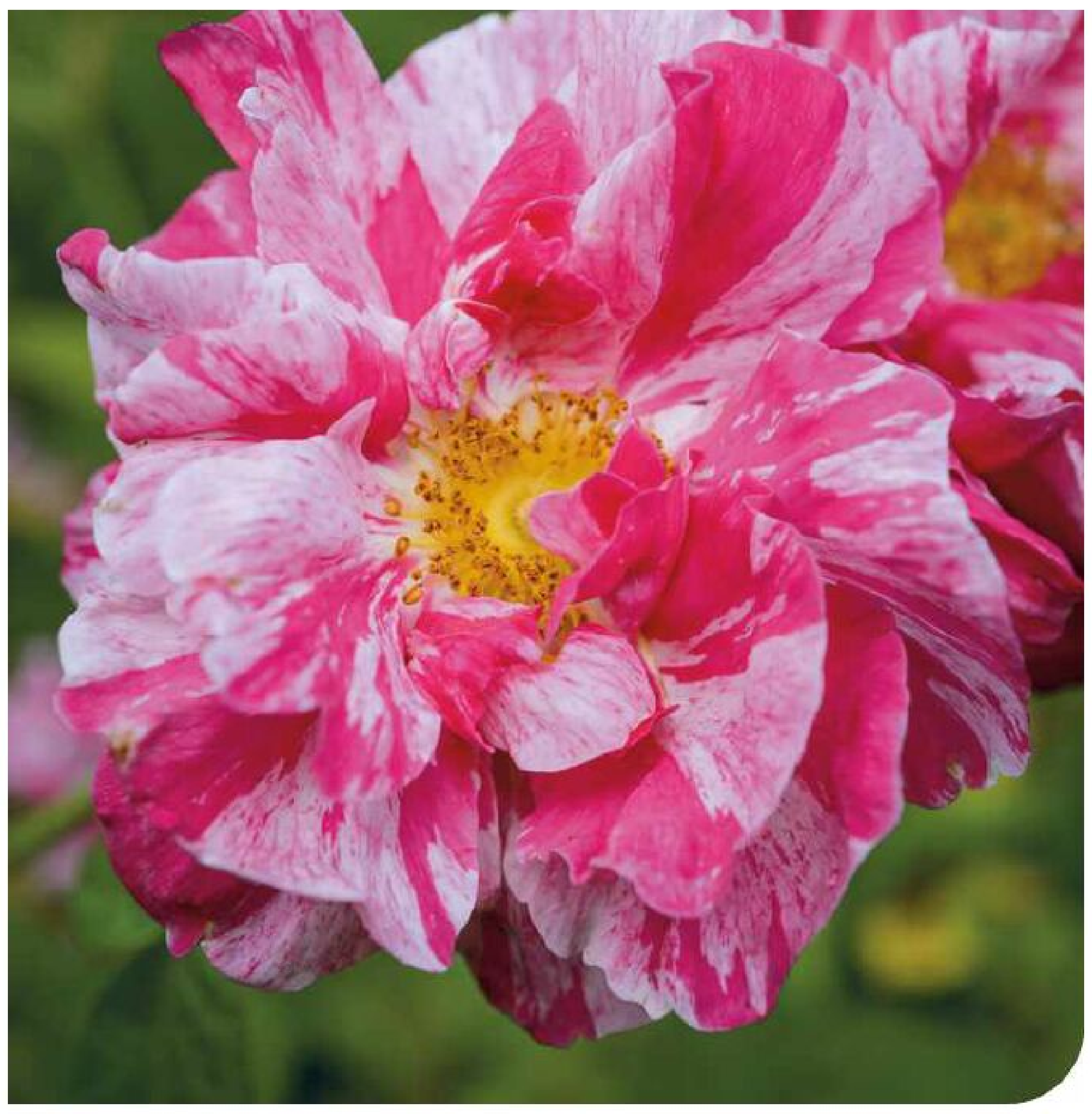
Baby pink
Floribunda rose 'Natasha Richardson' is a good pick if you want soft pink blooms.
Flowers June to August **H x S** 1.2m x 70cm



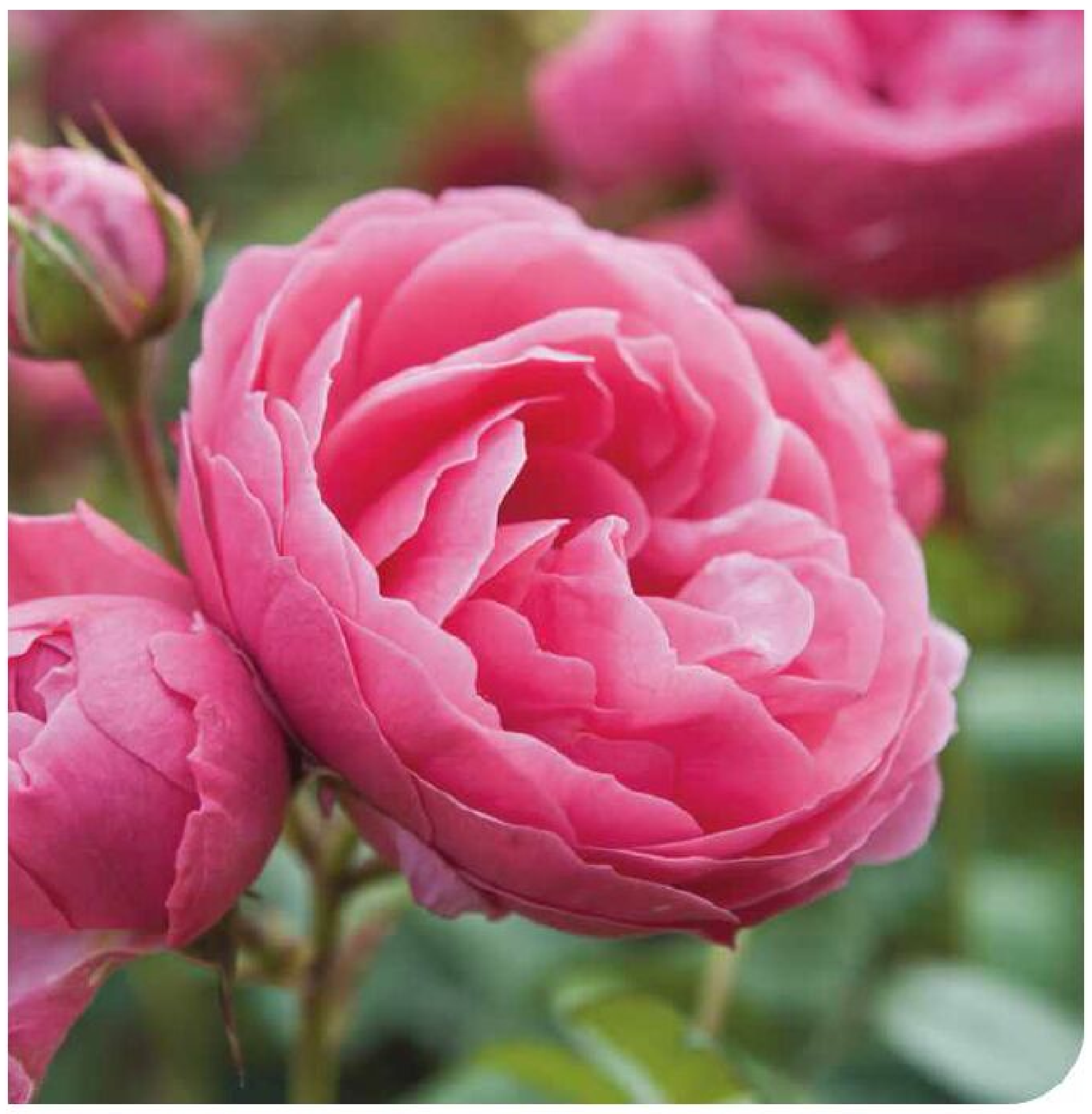
Light pink
A fresh pink for a calm look with the scented double flowers of 'St Ethelburga'.
Flowers May to September **H x S** 1.2m x 90cm



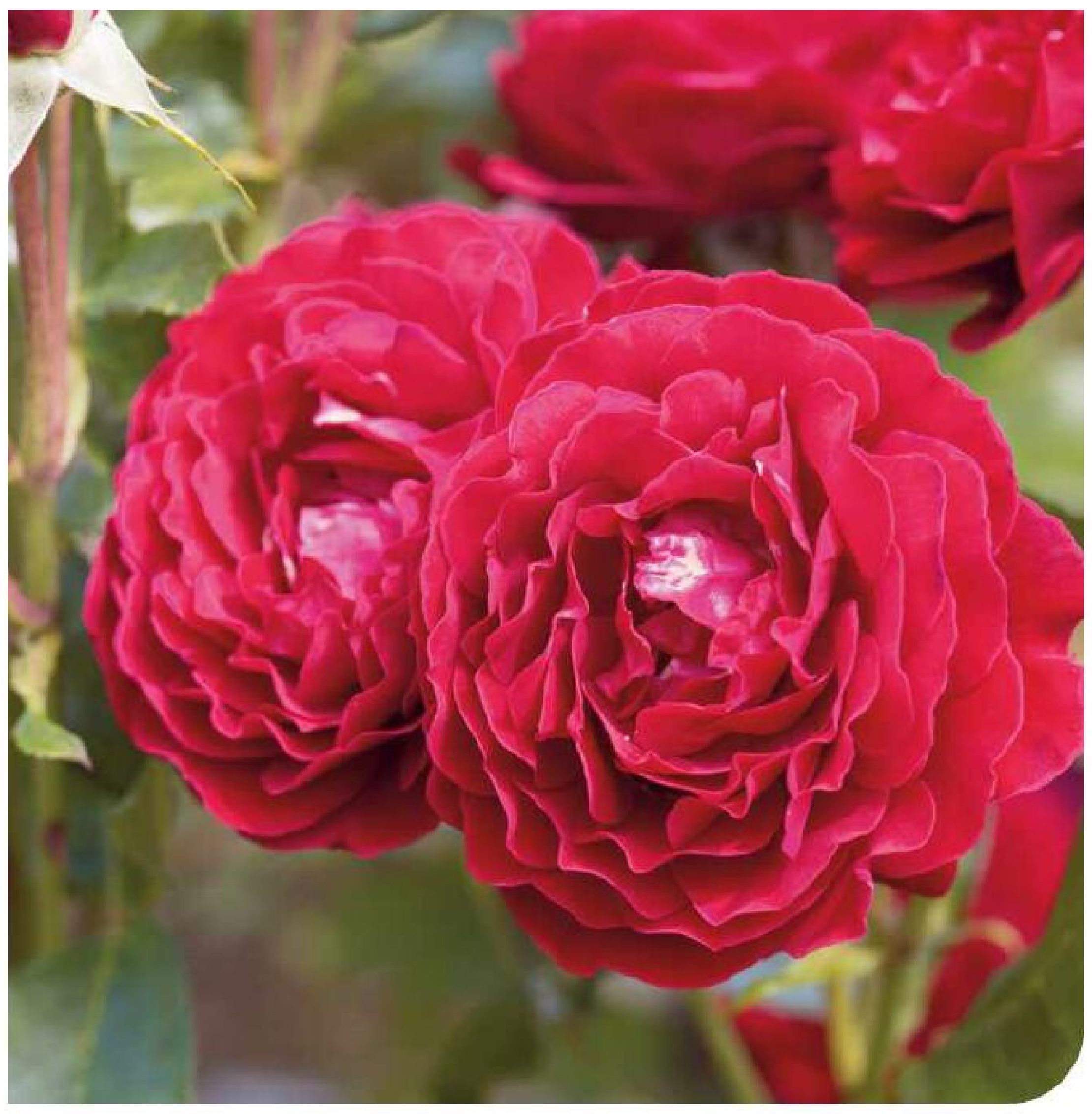
Cerise pink
Create a standout scheme with deep pink. 'Abbie's Rose' is compact and long-flowering.
Flowers May to October **H x S** 75cm x 75cm



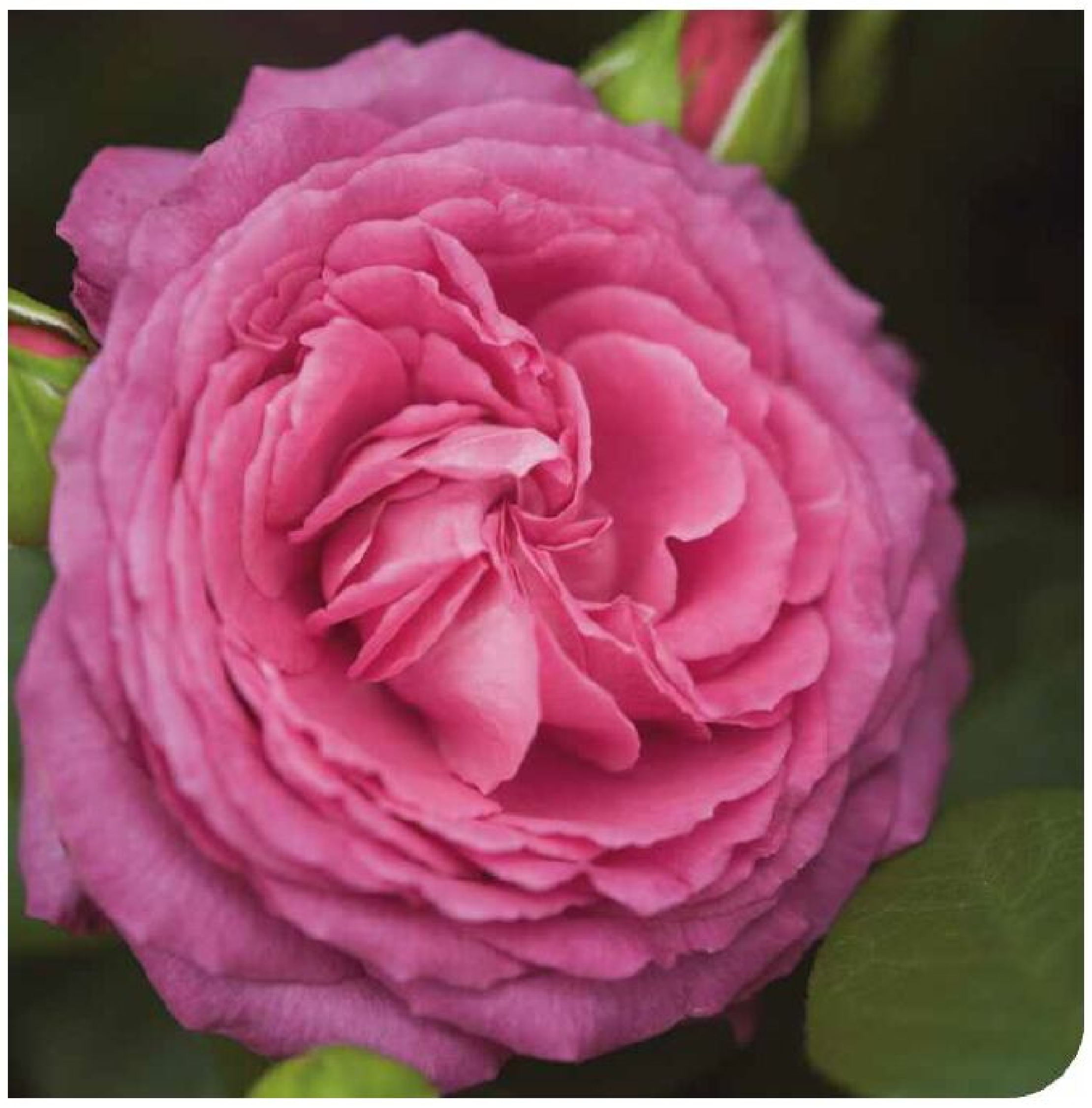
Pink and white
Rosa mundi or *R. gallica* 'Versicolor' has striped flowers that will stand out in a border.
Flowers June to August **H x S** 80cm x 1m



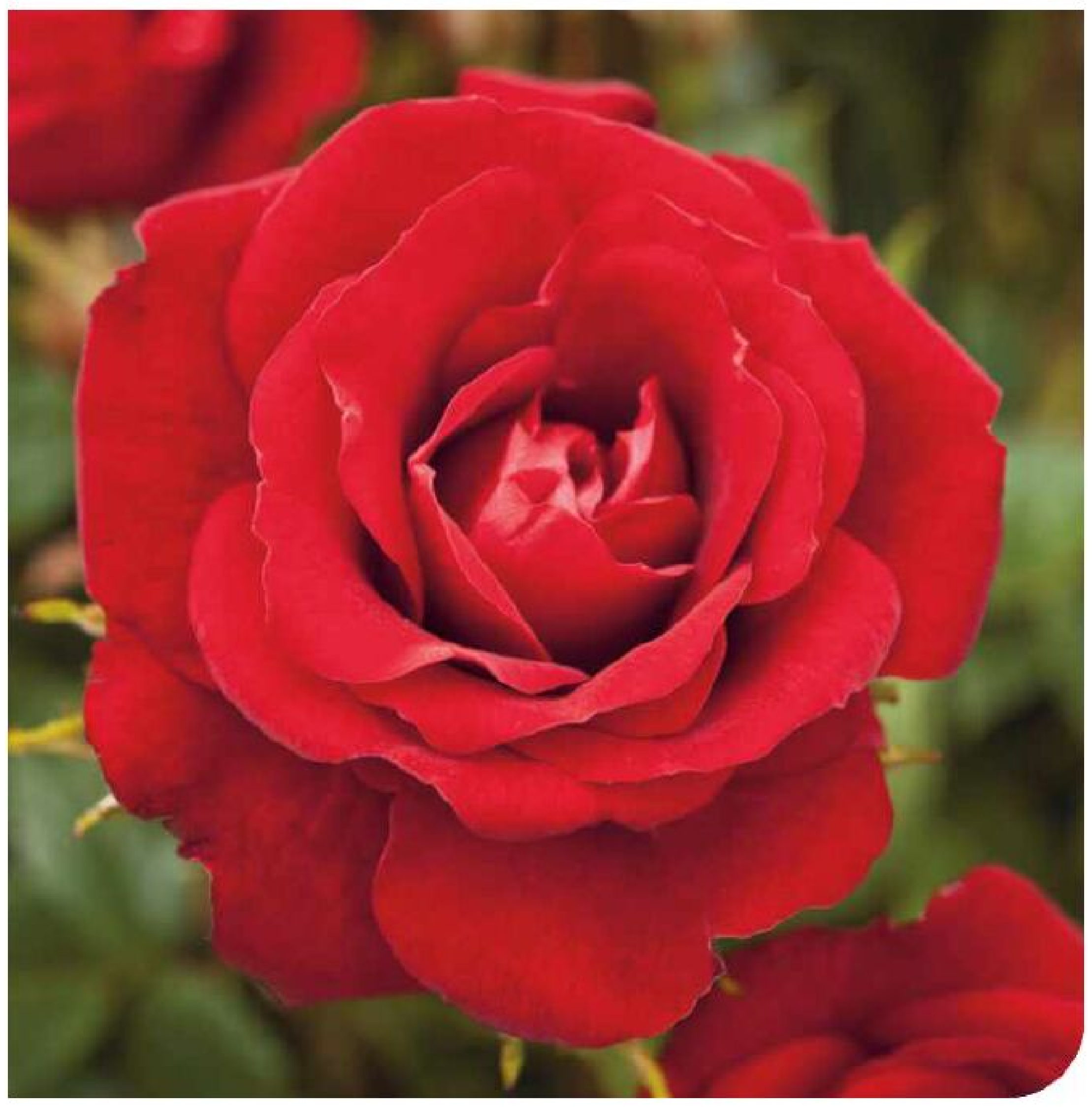
Dark pink
Pink is a popular choice in borders and 'Pomponella' is a classic style floribunda.
Flowers June to September **H x S** 80cm x 60cm



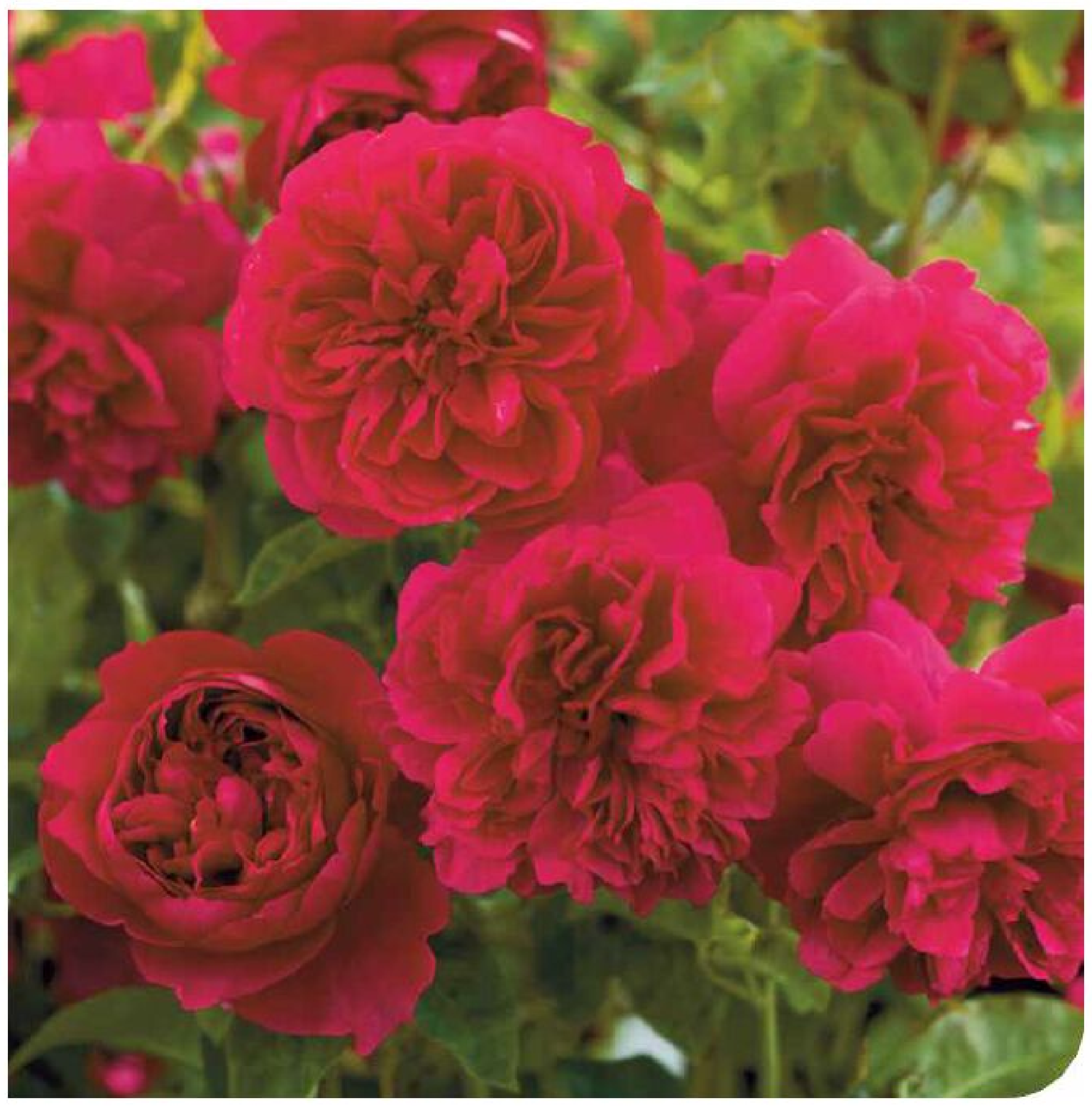
Dark red
For deep red, scented and weather-resistant blooms, try double-flowered 'Red Abundance'.
Flowers June to November **H x S** 90cm x 60cm



Pinky purple
This floribunda rose, 'Claire Marshall', works well with yellow and blue flowers.
Flowers June to September **H x S** 60cm x 60cm



Crimson
This classic shade of red comes from patio rose 'Crimson Sweet Dream'.
Flowers June to October **H x S** 60cm x 60cm



Magenta red
Beautiful in colour and form, 'Thomas à Becket' adds richness to a scheme.
Flowers June to September **H x S** 1.2m x 90cm

EASY PLANT PARTNERS

Bulbs

Mixing roses with other plants adds interest to your border and helps extend the season – use bulbs, perennials, grasses and shrubs. Underplanting roses with other plants also helps add colour to the base of the roses, which can look bare, even in summer. Underplant with spring bulbs to bring an early boost of colour before the roses start flowering. Look for plants that form clumps and won't spread to compete with roses.

Gladiolus 'Espresso'

This rich crimson gladiolus will produce a dramatic show with dark red flowers on spikes, making it the perfect companion to have alongside paler roses.

Plant March to May
Flowers July to September
H x S 1.2m x 15cm

Alliums

The violet globe-like flowers go perfectly with early-flowering roses. Alliums are also said to deter aphids and prevent black spot. Try 'Purple Sensation', which is dark purple.

Plant October to November
Flowers May to June
H x S 80cm x 10cm

Lilies

Summer bulbs not only combine well with repeat-flowering roses but begin flowering as the first blooms of early roses go over. *Lilium regale* has a wonderful fragrance, too.

Plant March, or September to January
Flowers July to August
H x S 1.5m x 45cm

Tulips

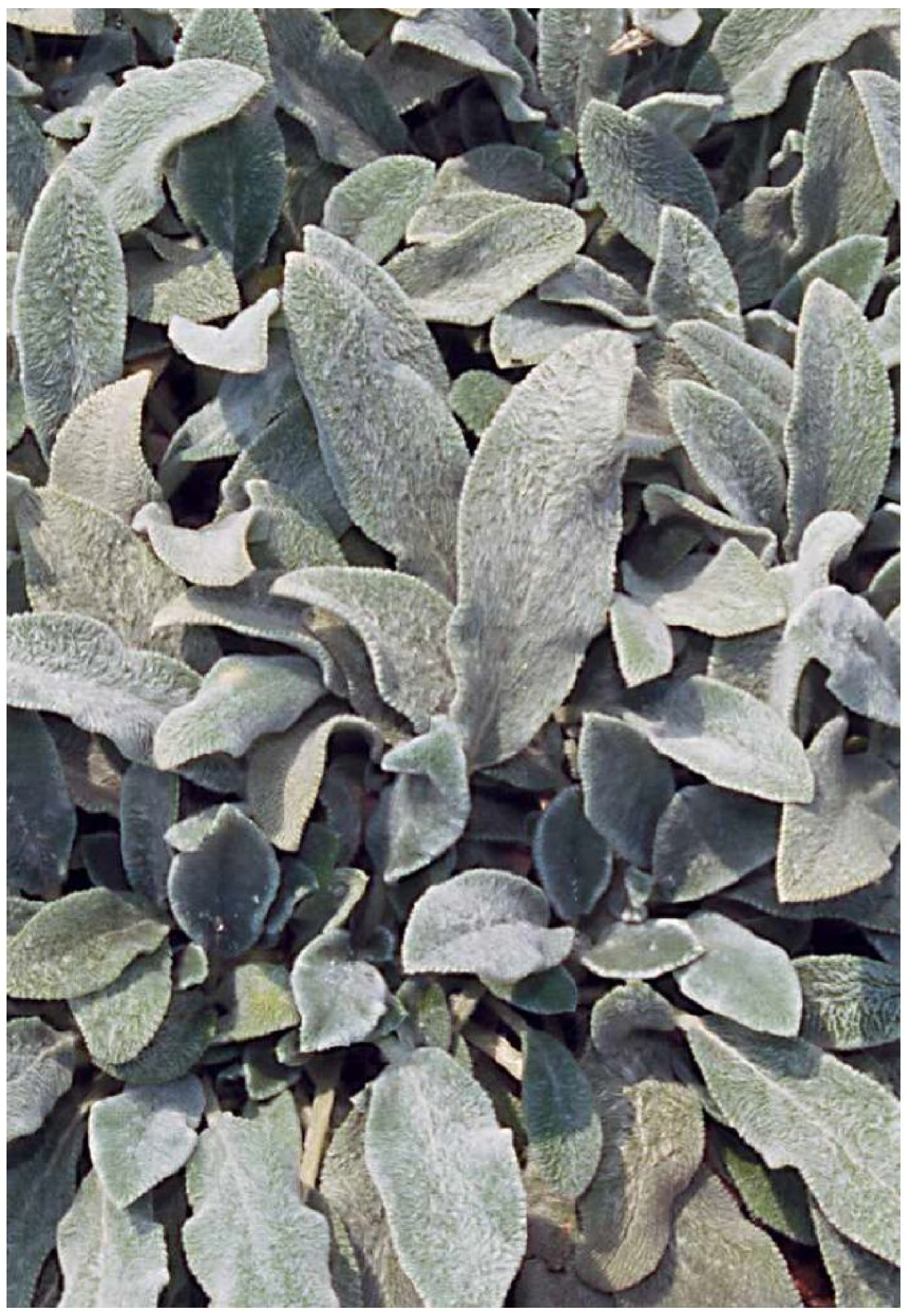
A succession of tulips will fill your borders with flowers through to late May, just as the first roses are blooming. Late varieties include 'Queen of Night' and 'Ballerina' (pictured).

Plant October to November
Flowers April to May
H x S 55cm x 15cm

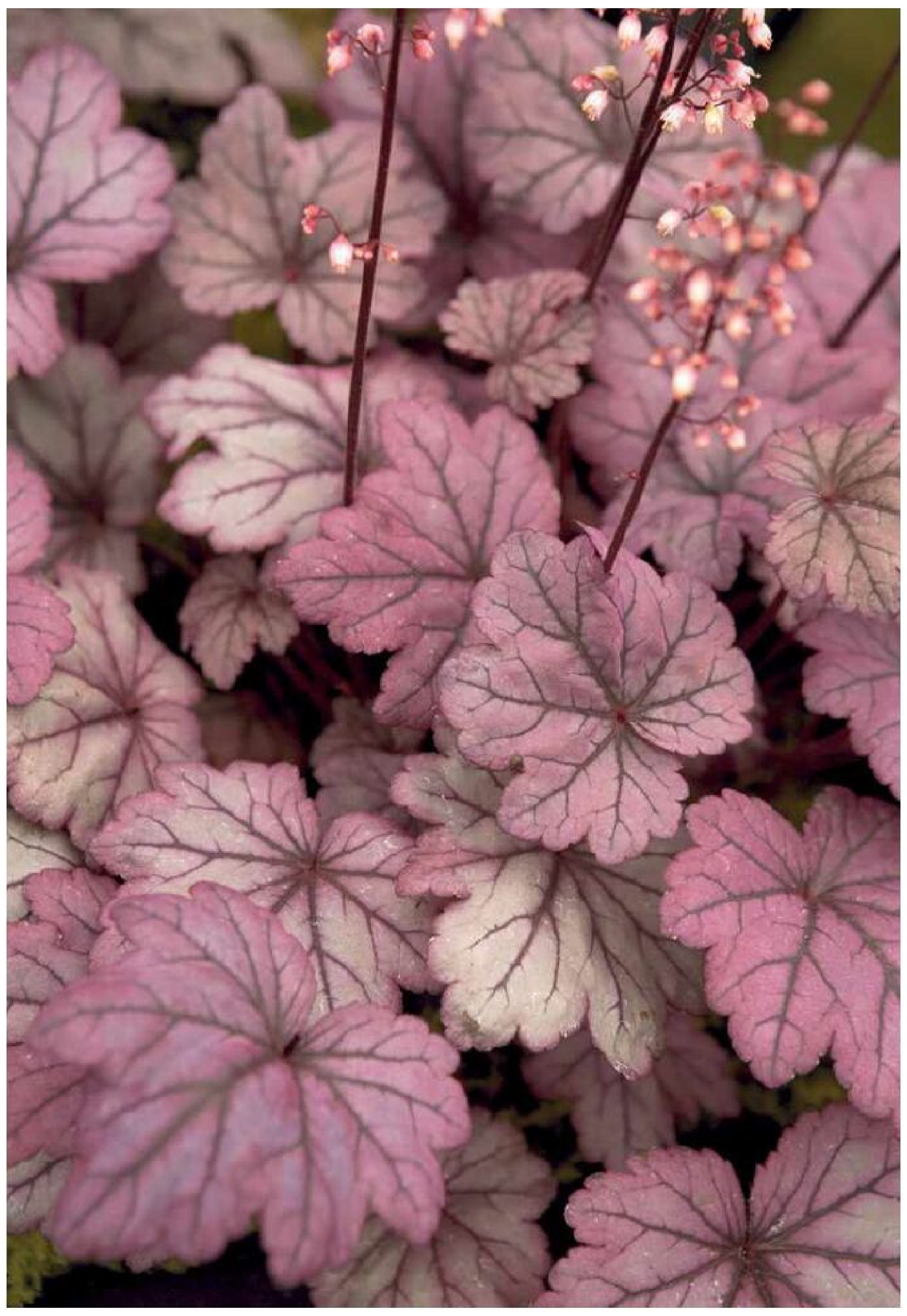
EASY PLANT PARTNERS

Foliage

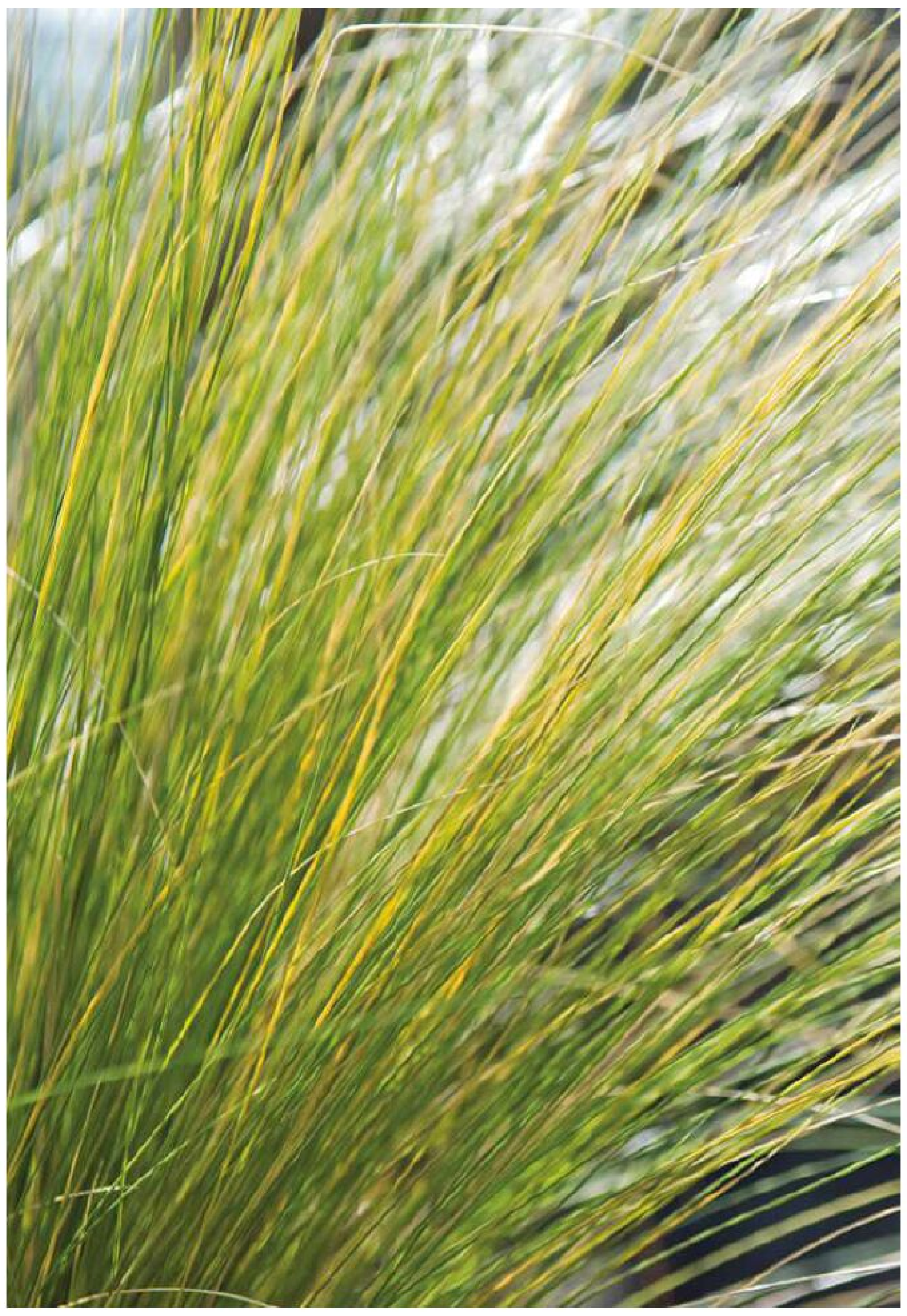
The right foliage plants add contrast and texture to rose borders. Grasses, shrubs and perennials with striking leaves all bring structure to a planting scheme, whether it's the silver leaves of lamb's ear or the soft movement of a grass like *Stipa tenuissima*. Green and silver foliage plants provide a calm backdrop to roses and are easy to combine in a planting scheme, the perfect setting for any shade of rose.



Stachys byzantina
Lamb's ear provides a carpet of silver that looks good all year round. It makes a perfect plant partner for pink and purple roses.
Plant Spring to autumn
Flowers Some varieties don't flower; 'Big Ears' flowers from June to September
H x S 45cm x 60cm



***Heuchera* 'Sugar Plum'**
Heucheras are great groundcover plants and come in a huge variety of colours. Purple 'Sugar Plum' will look good all year round beneath roses.
Plant Spring or autumn
Flowers June to July
H x S 40cm x 35cm



Stipa tenuissima
The soft shades of this compact grass are easy to combine with most colours of rose. It adds movement with its feathery seedheads and provides a horizontal shape in a scheme.
Plant Spring to autumn
Flowers June to August
H x S 60cm x 30cm

Euphorbias

There are many euphorbias that bring zingy green foliage and standout flowers to the border. 'Lambrook Gold' (pictured) will add structure year round.

Plant Spring to autumn
Flowers March to June
H x S 90cm x 90cm

EASY PLANT PARTNERS

Annuals

There are many annuals that are stalwarts of the cottage garden border, such as nigella, poppies and snapdragons, and these are natural planting partners for roses. They can provide up to five months of colour for just a few pounds. They not only look good alongside roses in the border but many, such as cosmos, make excellent cut flowers and can be combined with roses indoors.

Nigella

Also known as love-in-a-mist, nigella is ideal for a cottage garden-style border and will provide months of flowers. 'Miss Jekyll' (pictured) is a semi-double variety.
Sow Under cover March, or direct in April
Flowers July to September
H x S 45cm x 23cm

Cosmos

This flowers for up to five months and comes in a huge range of colours from white, like 'Purity' (pictured), through to orange and deep red, making it easy to pair with all roses.
Sow Indoors March to April, or direct in May
Flowers July to September
H x S 1.2m x 60cm

Antirrhinums

Snapdragons are versatile summer plants that form beautiful tall spires and come in a range of colours. These would look good planted underneath tall roses.
Sow Under cover in March
Flowers June to October
H x S 60cm x 30cm

Poppies

Add a splash of colour to rose borders with poppies. 'Ladybird' is easy to grow and low-growing, so it's perfect as a low tier of planting among roses.

Sow Direct in March to April

Flowers June to August

H x S 55cm x 55cm

EASY PLANT PARTNERS

Perennials

Choosing long-flowering, reliable perennials to go in the border with roses will ensure a showstopping summer display. When picking plants, look for those that will add contrast. Tall spires will complement the shape of roses, while clump-forming geraniums will create attractive ground cover around roses. Here is our top pick of plants that will come back year after year, and most are available in a range of colours.

Hardy geraniums

Purple geraniums like 'Rozanne' (pictured) go well with many colours of rose, from yellow to pink, while pale pinks such as 'Wargrave Pink' look striking with crimson roses.
Plant Spring or autumn
Flowers June to September
H x S 30cm x 60cm

Penstemons

These flower alongside roses and will keep the show going once the roses have gone over. They come in purple, pink, crimson or white – try planting with apricot, cream or pink roses.
Plant Spring or summer
Flowers June to October
H x S 75cm x 50cm

Salvias

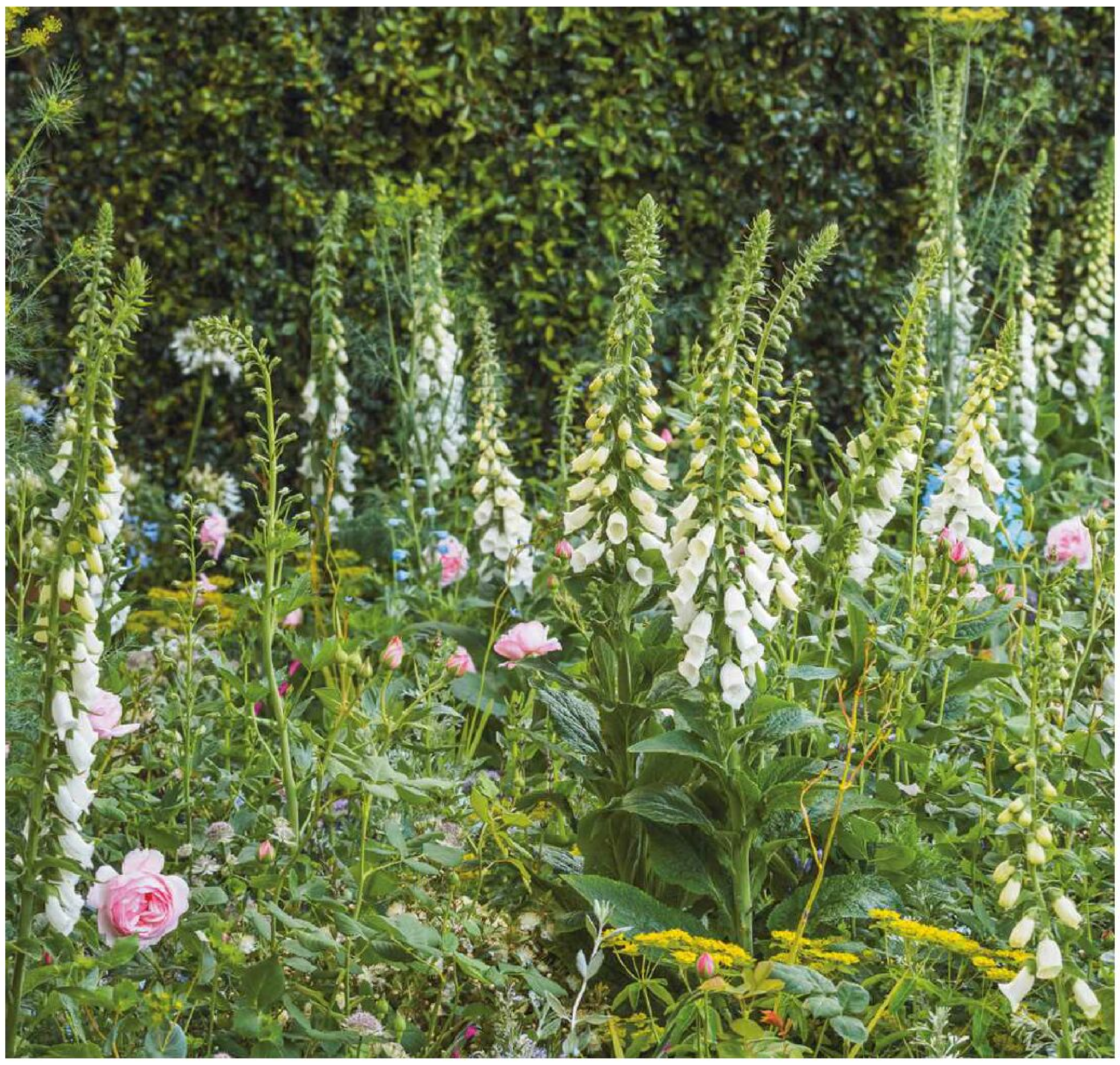
Long-flowering with upright spikes that bring structure to borders, salvias attract a huge number of beneficial insects. Purple varieties go well with pink or yellow roses.
Plant Spring to early summer
Flowers June to October
H x S 60cm x 45cm

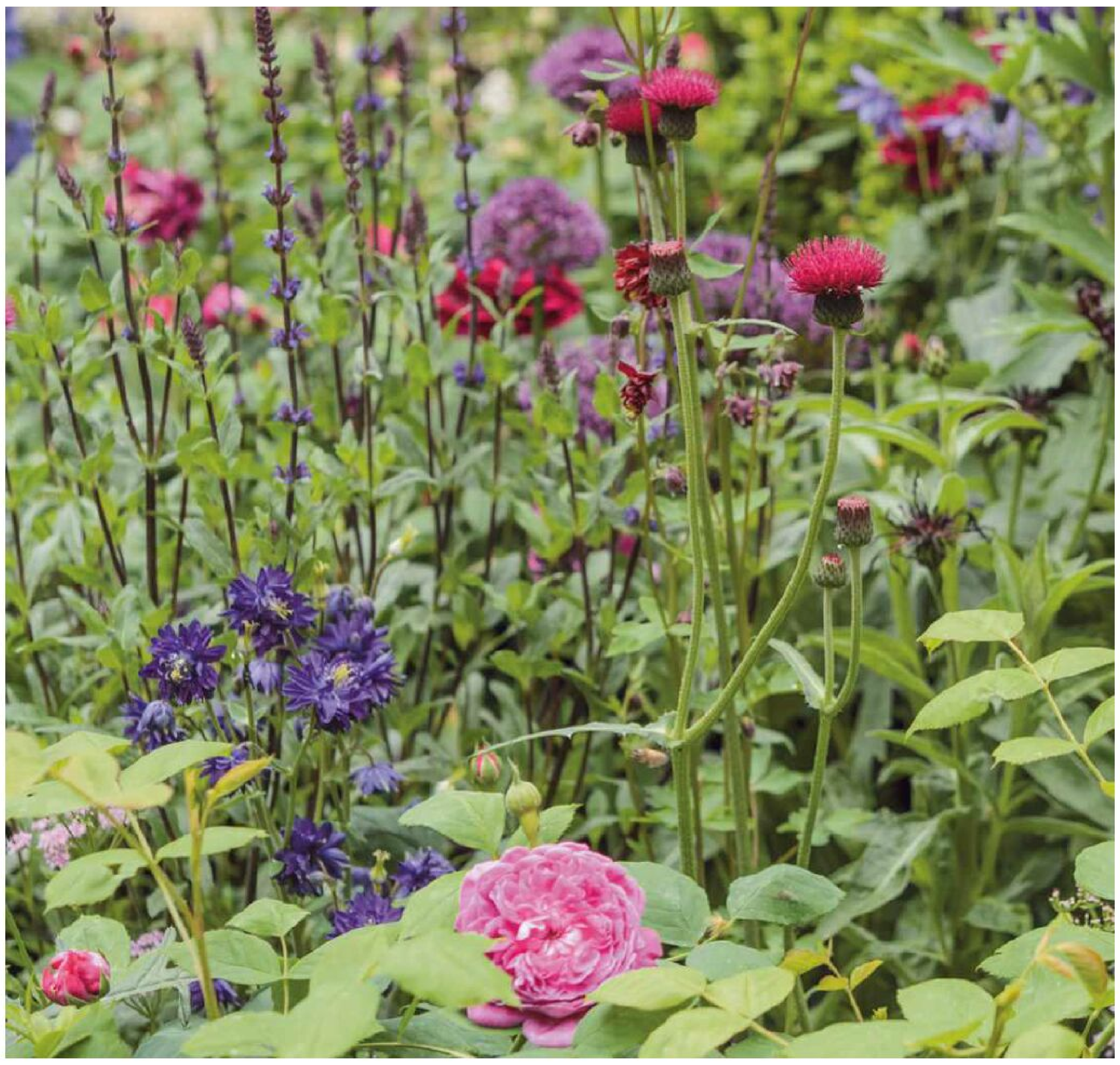
Verbascums
Some varieties flower in May and are still going when roses begin to bloom. They come in many colours, including the peach 'Clementine' (pictured).
Plant May to June
Flowers May to September
H x S 1.5m x 60cm

EASY PLANTING RECIPES

Top border combos

Roses are easy to combine with other plants as they come in such a variety of colours, sizes and forms. Although they can be planted on their own, they make great partners for perennials and shrubs in a mixed border where you can use contrasting or harmonious forms and colours to make an impact. Even pairing a rose with one other plant can transform a dull corner and extend the flowering season.





Inspired spires

Foxgloves provide a contrasting shape to roses, the spires rising above a swathe of elegant blooms. This pink damask rose provides a hit of pink at mid-level in the border, while the white foxgloves tower above. False fennel adds height and vibrant lime green as a contrast.

We used Damask roses, white foxgloves (try *Digitalis purpurea* f. *albiflora*) and false fennel.

At their peak July to August

Colourful characters

Plant different shades of one colour or colours close to each other in the colour wheel. Here, dark pink *Rosa* 'De Rescht' is highlighted by the crimson tufts of *Cirsium rivulare*, while aquilegias in red and purple, 'Ruby Port' and 'Blue Barlow', make a striking palette in the border.

We used *Rosa* 'De Rescht', *Cirsium rivulare*, *Aquilegia vulgaris* 'Ruby Port' and 'Blue Barlow'.

At their peak June to August

Zest for life
Pure white *Rosa* 'Kew Gardens' adds a freshness to this pairing with the zesty lime of euphorbia. *Euphorbia* x *martini* is a good partner for roses with its bright green foliage and red-eyed flowers on a plant that is both compact and low maintenance.
We used *Rosa* 'Kew Gardens' and *Euphorbia* x *martini*.
At their peak June to August

High fliers
Anchusas are good plants for kicking off the rose season. Towering high at just under a metre they complement pink roses with their deep blue spires in late spring to early summer.
We used *Anchusa azurea* 'Lodden Royalist' and *Rosa* 'Gertrude Jekyll'.
At their peak June to August

Mix and match

A compact, repeat-blooming shrub rose is ideal for a mixed border with underplanting such as pink hardy cranesbill ideal for complementing yellow blooms.

We used Try a compact yellow shrub rose such as *Rosa* 'Molineux', hardy cranesbill, and purple foxgloves.

At their peak June to August

Brownie points

Pick a long-flowering helenium to bloom alongside roses and extend your display well into autumn. 'Sahin's Early Flowerer' produces flowers in a range of burnished shades, from yellow and orange through to red and brown – a great match for a simple yellow rose.

We used *Rosa'* The Brownie Rose' and *Helenium* 'Sahin's Early Flowerer'

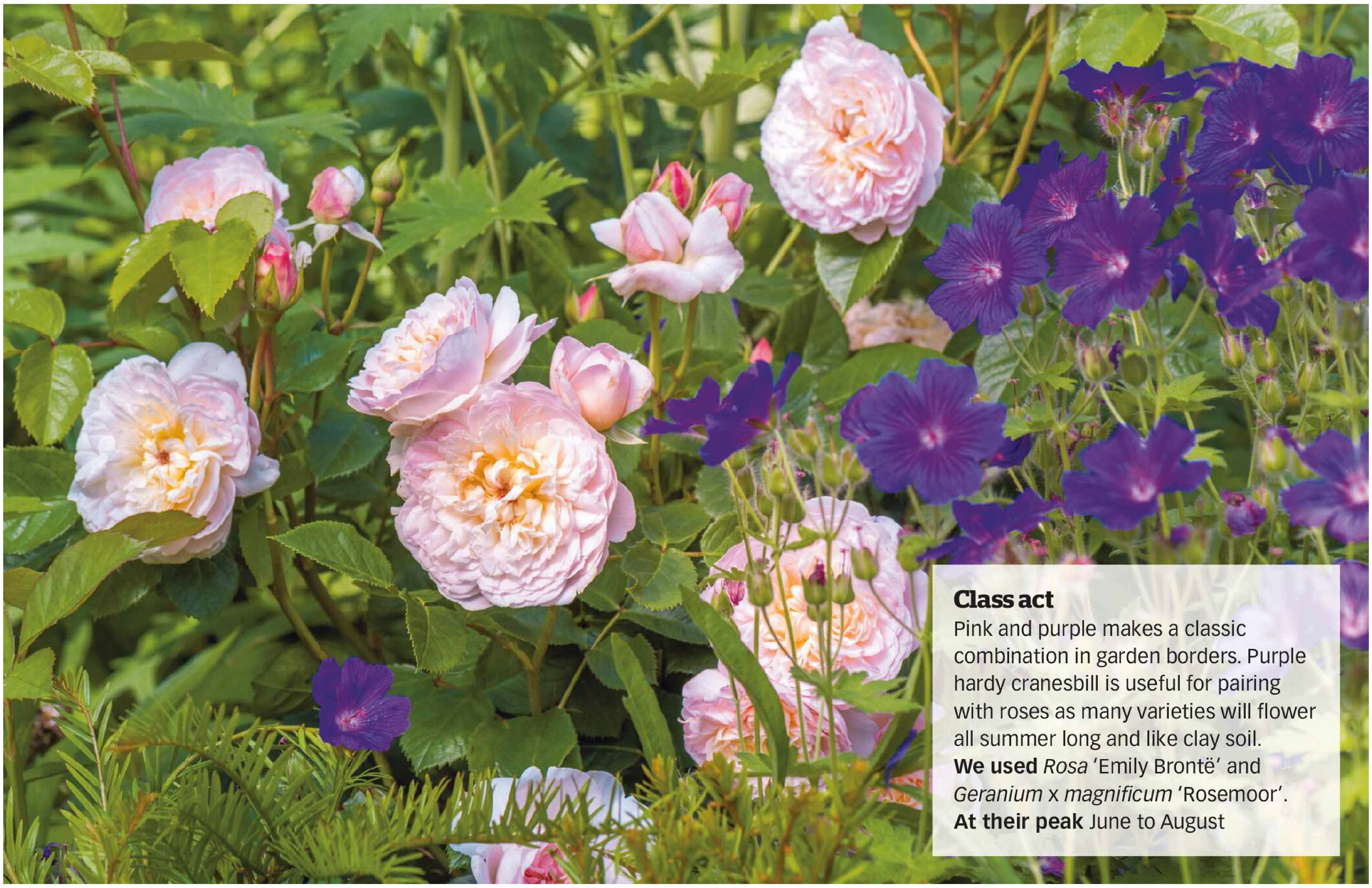
At their peak June to September

Fern favourite

Create an elegant scheme with the ivory-cream roses of 'Buff Beauty' and an underplanting of ferns with their attractive foliage. This pairing would be a good pick for an area in partial shade, as ferns thrive in it and 'Buff Beauty' can tolerate a bit of shade, although it will still need four hours of sun a day.

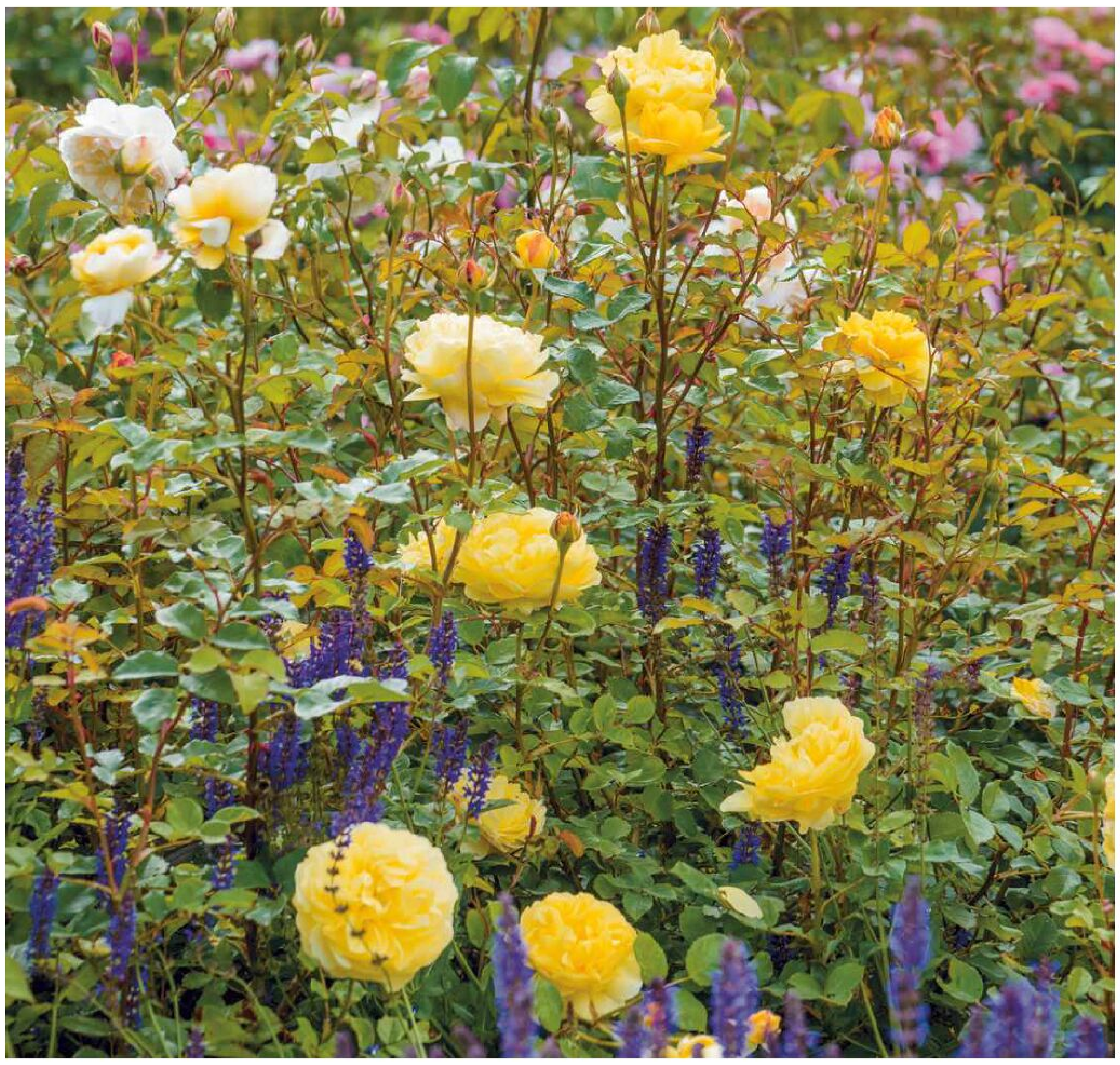
We used *Rosa* 'Buff Beauty' and ferns.

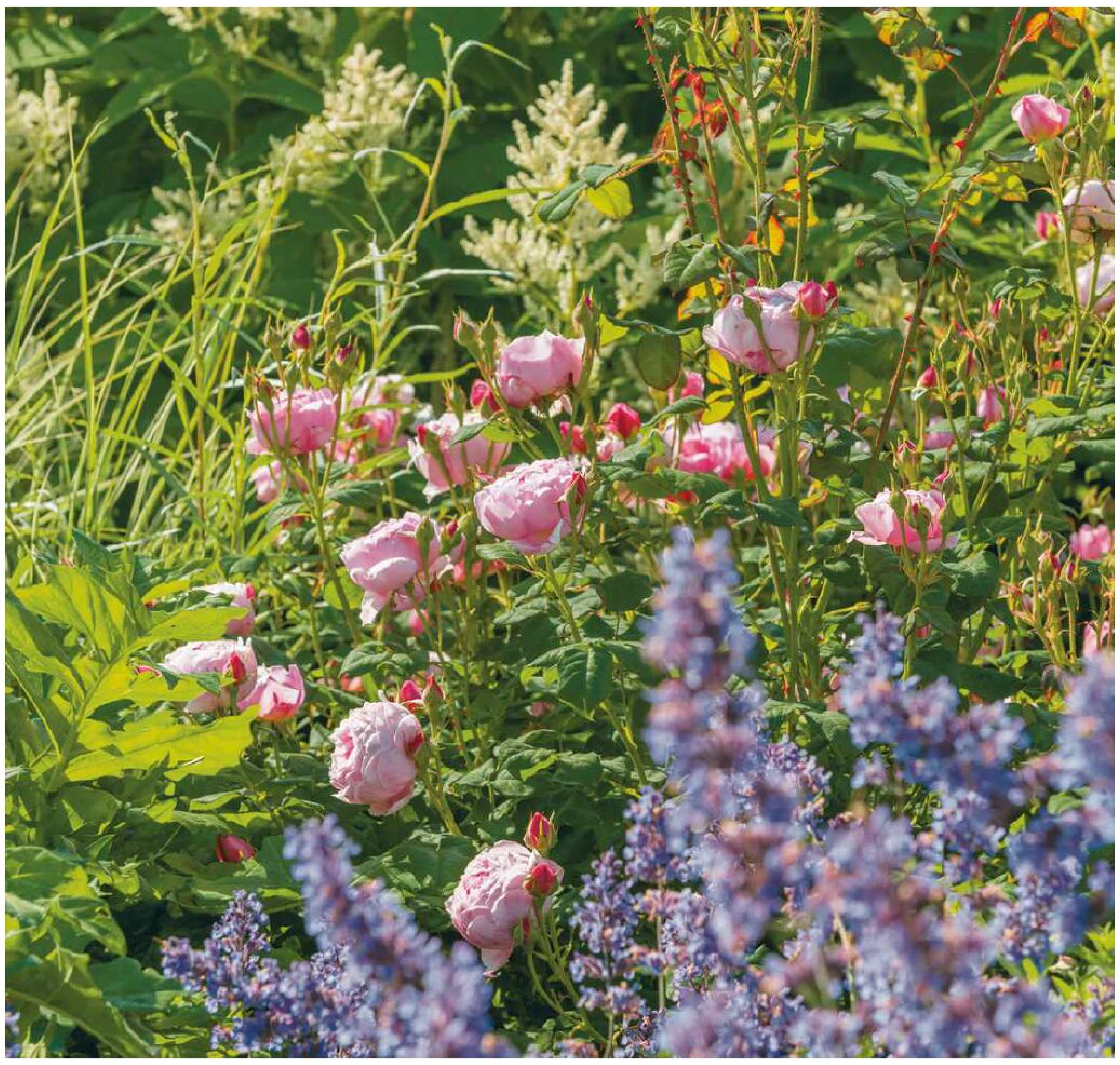
At their peak July to September



Class act

Pink and purple makes a classic combination in garden borders. Purple hardy cranesbill is useful for pairing with roses as many varieties will flower all summer long and like clay soil.
We used *Rosa* 'Emily Brontë' and *Geranium* x *magnificum* 'Rosemoor'.
At their peak June to August





Dazzling duo

Create a vibrant planting palette with compact yellow shrub roses, such as 'The Poet's Wife', and purple perennials such as salvias, which will flower over a long period and offer a striking contrast in form with their tall, spire-like flowers adding a vertical accent. This rose variety has a rich, fruity fragrance.
We used *Rosa* 'The Poet's Wife' and *Salvia nemorosa* 'Ostfriesland'.
At their peak July to September

Full of fragrance

Use swathes of soft colour around roses for an informal look that will also fill a garden with fragrance. 'Scepter'd Isle' has a myrrh scent, while catmint (nepeta) is minty and spicy. Catmint flowers though summer, is attractive to bees and its lilac shades go well with pink roses.
We used *Rosa* 'Scepter'd Isle', *Nepeta* x *faassenii* and *Persicaria polymorpha* (the white flower).
At their peak June to September

A harmonious hit

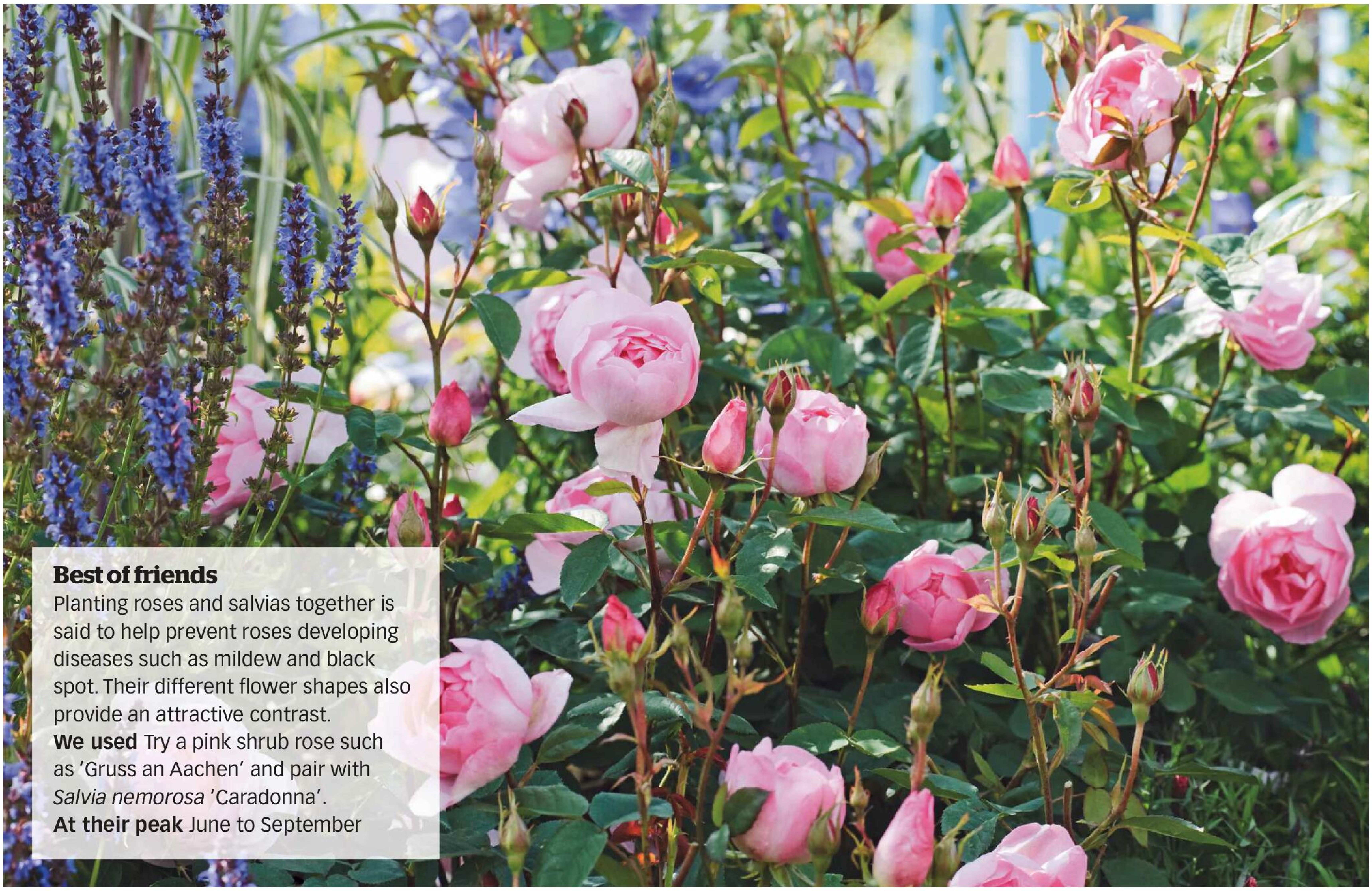
Use similar colours for a harmonious look. *Rosa* 'Princess Anne' has flowers that start as pink/red and fade to deep pink, which is a perfect match for the light and dark pink agastache blooms.
We used *Rosa* 'Princess Anne' and *Agastache* 'Cotton Candy'.
At their peak July to September

Play it cool

White and green together make an elegant combination that will never go out of fashion. This scheme will look good all summer with a double-flowered, repeat-flowering rose and *Alchemilla mollis*, which creates a froth of lime green beneath.

We used *Rosa* 'Winchester Cathedral' and *Alchemilla mollis*.

At their peak June to September

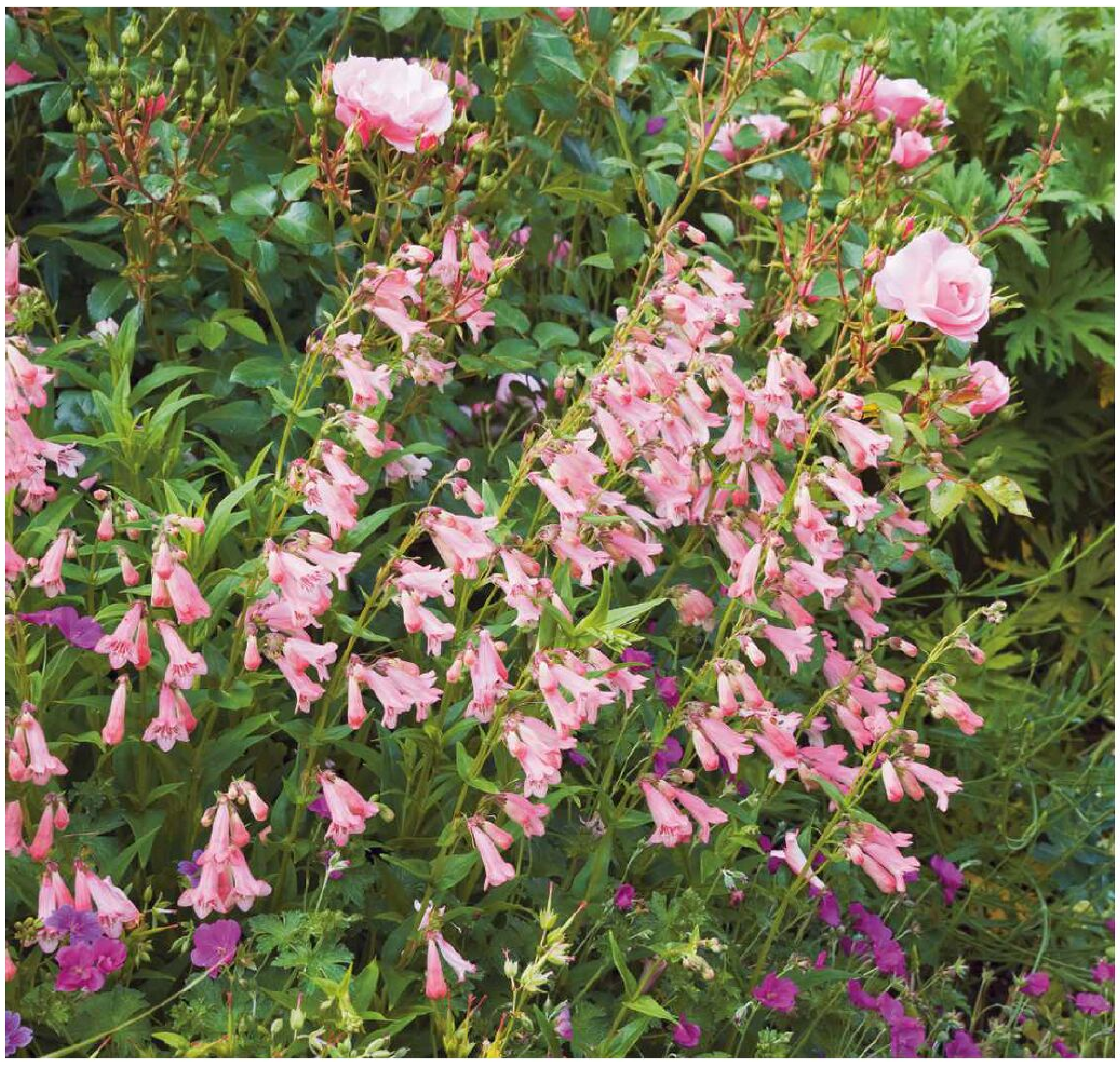


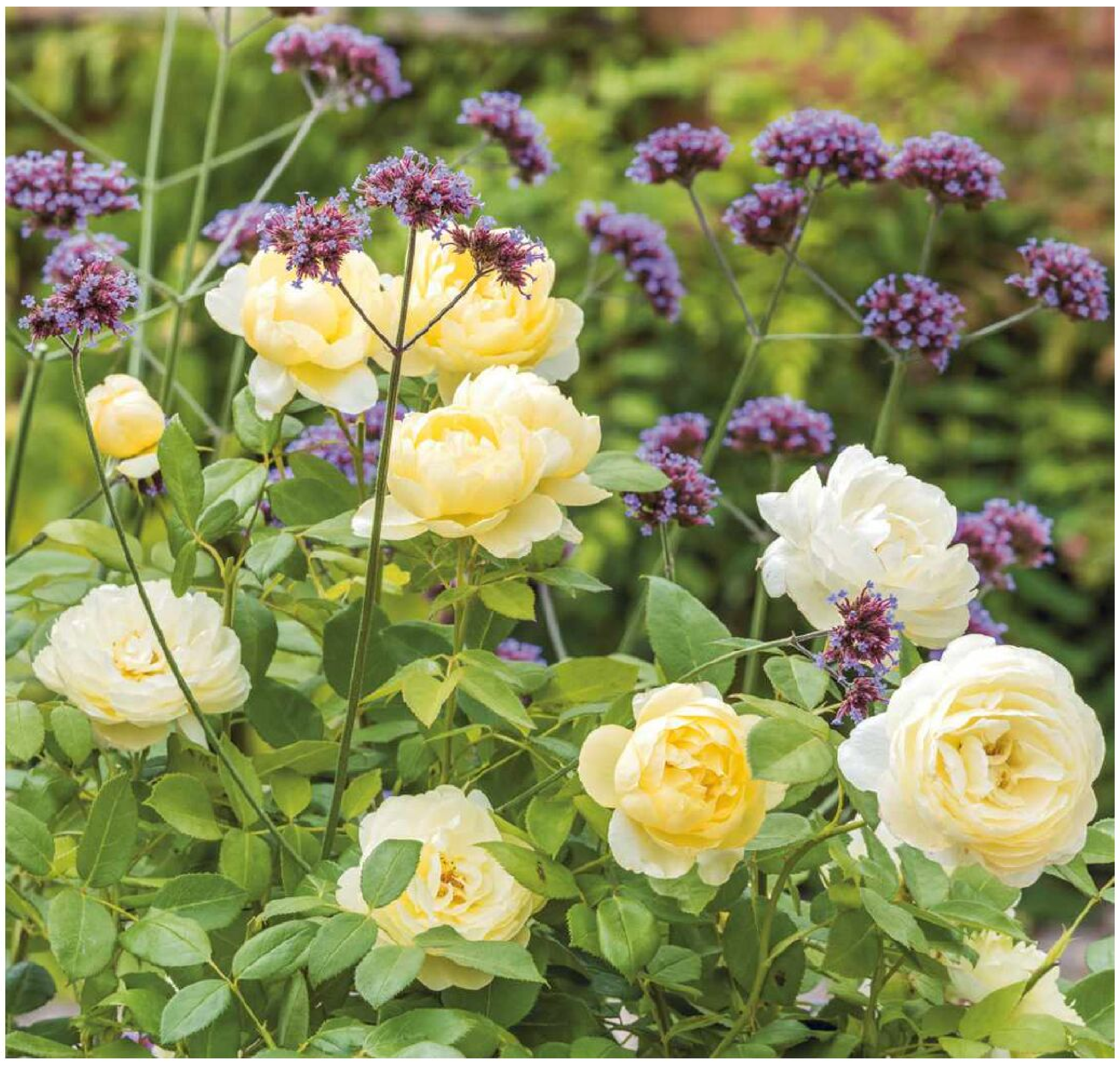
Best of friends

Planting roses and salvias together is said to help prevent roses developing diseases such as mildew and black spot. Their different flower shapes also provide an attractive contrast.

We used Try a pink shrub rose such as 'Gruss an Aachen' and pair with *Salvia nemorosa* 'Caradonna'.

At their peak June to September





The power of pink

Make an impact by using the same colour with subtle differences – from light pinks though to dark pinks. Use alongside fresh green foliage plants to complement the block of colour.

We used Try a repeat-flowering pink rose such as 'Mum in a Million' (hybrid tea) or 'Maid Marion' (shrub rose) and pink penstemons such as 'Hidcote Pink' or 'Apple Blossom'.

At their peak July to September

Match made in heaven

Put yellow and purple together and you can't go wrong. Choose a long-flowering rose and, paired with *Verbena bonariensis*, you'll have a combination that will fill your border with colour for months on end. *Verbena bonariensis* is a tall, flowering perennial that will give an airy look to your planting scheme.

We used *Rosa* 'Vanessa Bell' and *Verbena bonariensis*.

At their peak June to September

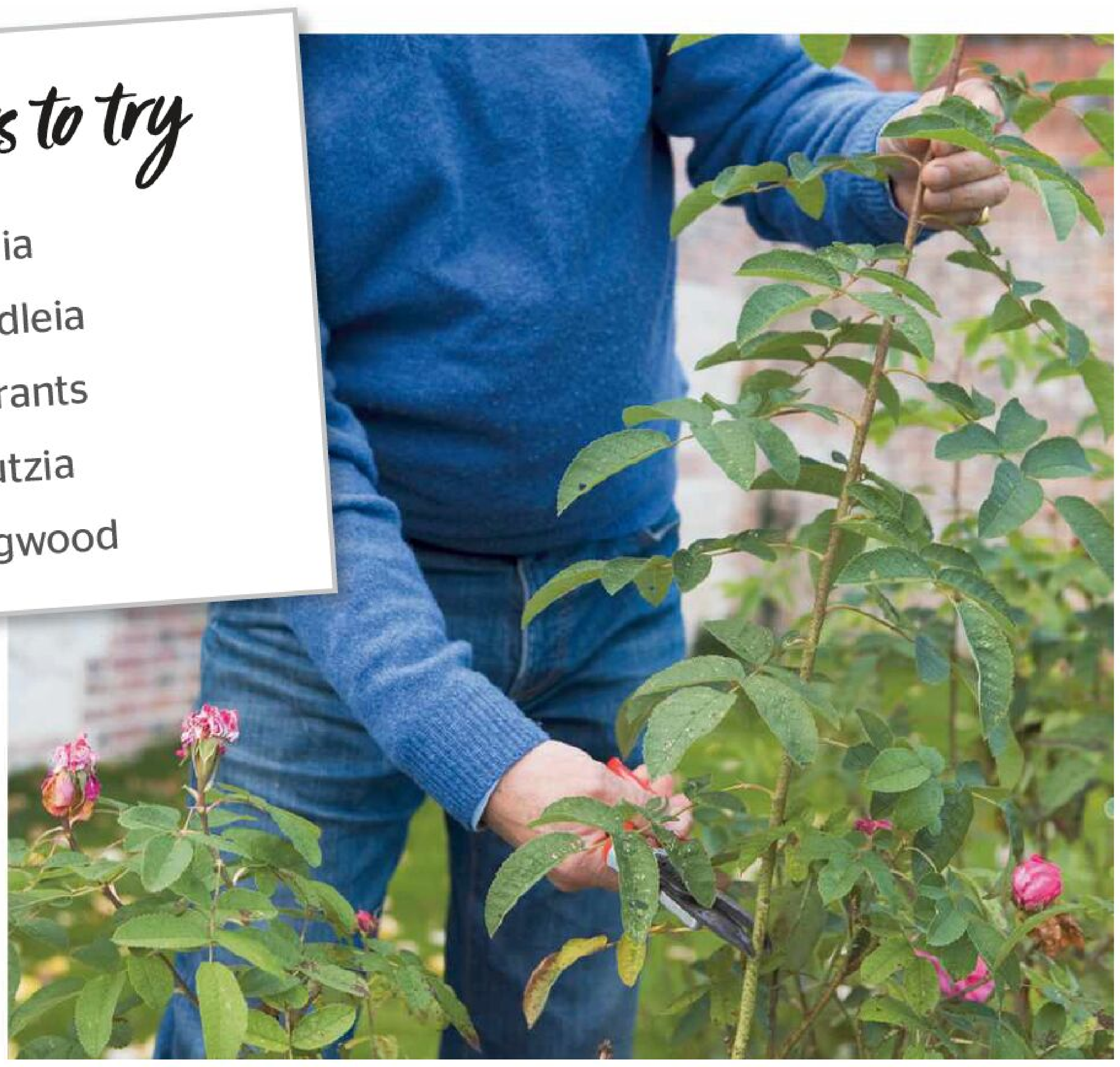
HOW TO

Take rose cuttings

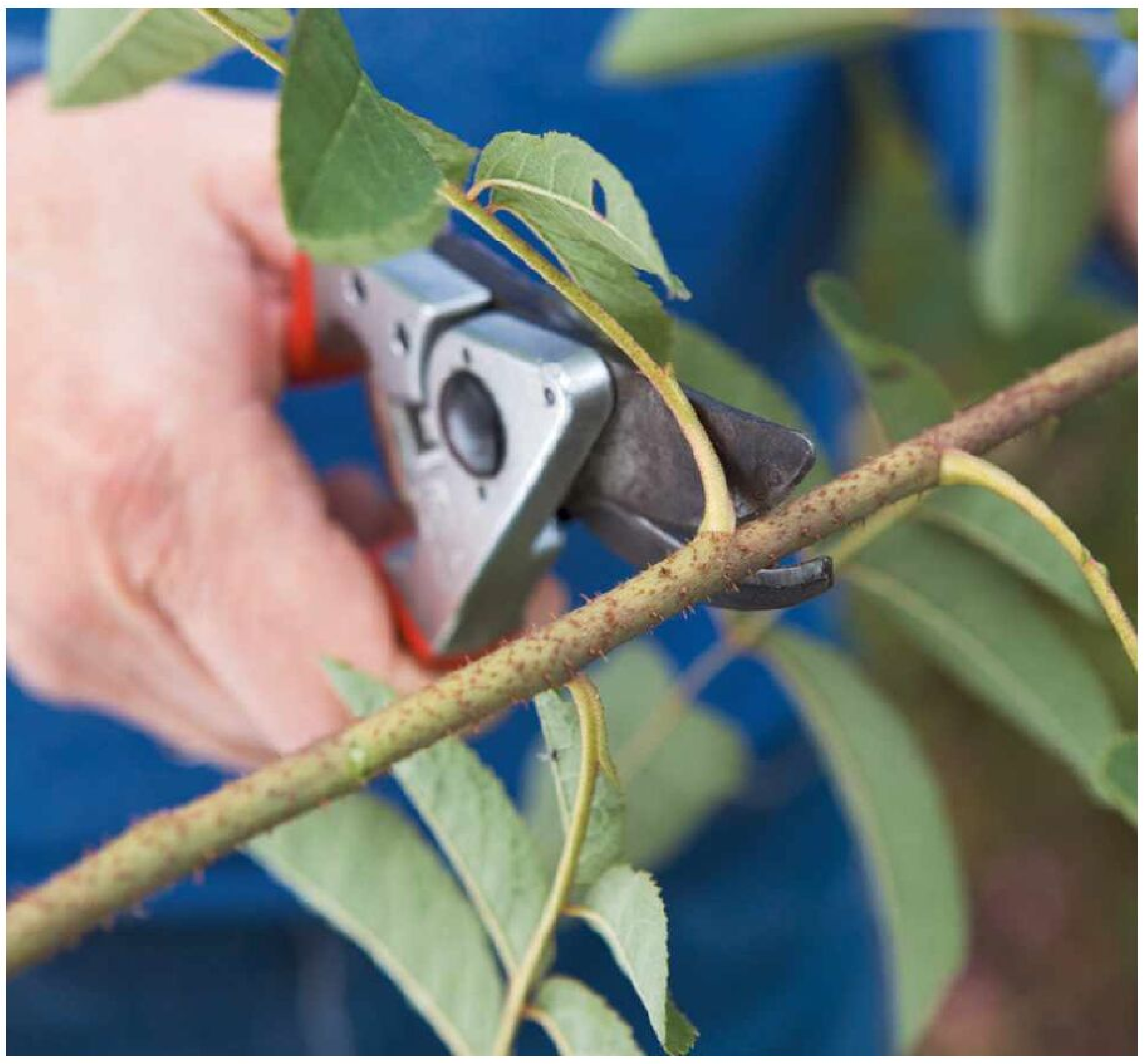
It's easy to grow new plants by taking cuttings in late autumn and winter. Once you've planted your cuttings, water regularly through the year – shoots should sprout from the buds at the top in spring. Aim to promote two or three shoots per cutting. Leave cuttings to establish until next winter, when they can be transplanted.

Others to try

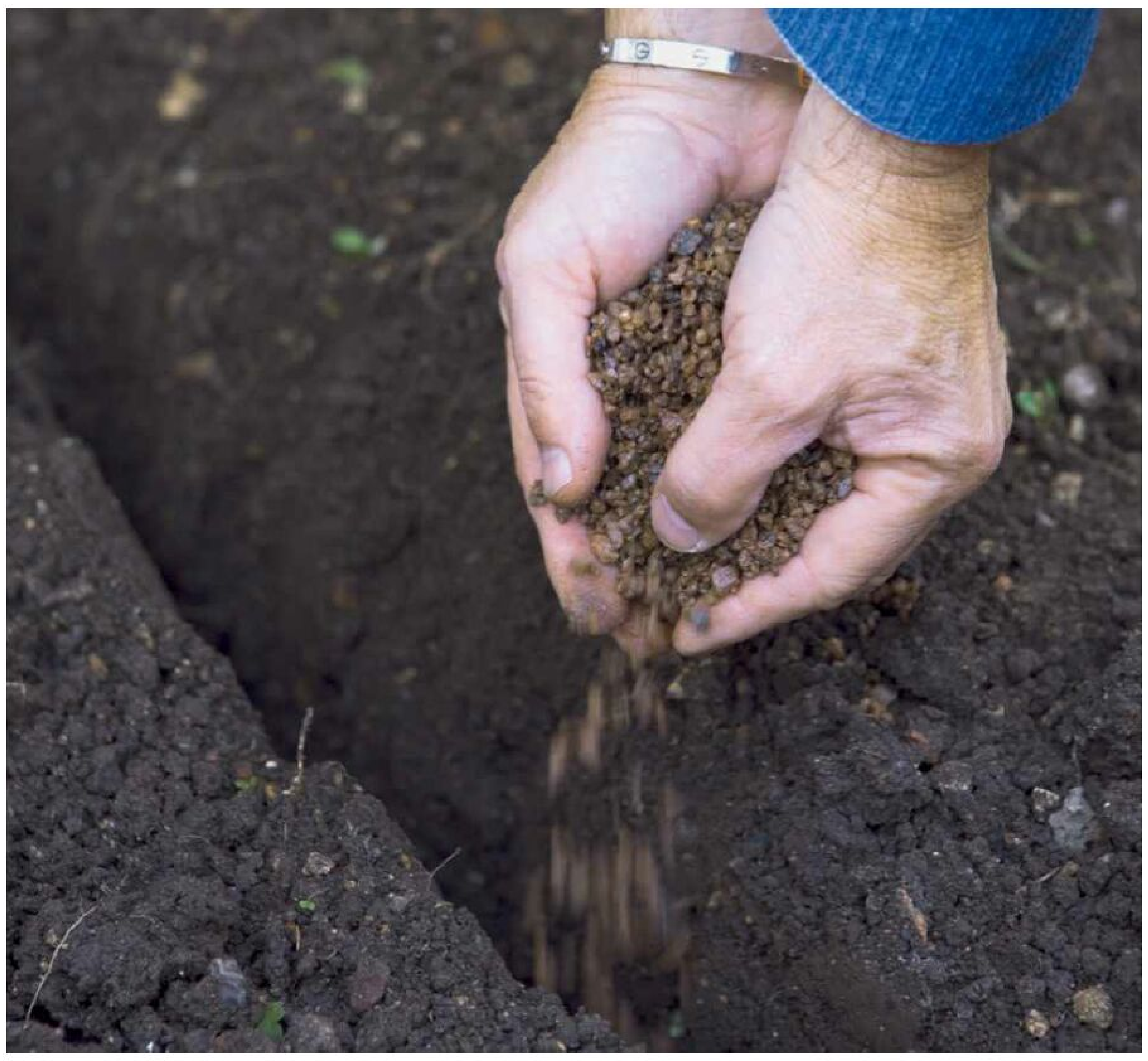
☐ Abelia
☐ Buddleia
☐ Currants
☐ Deutzia
☐ Dogwood



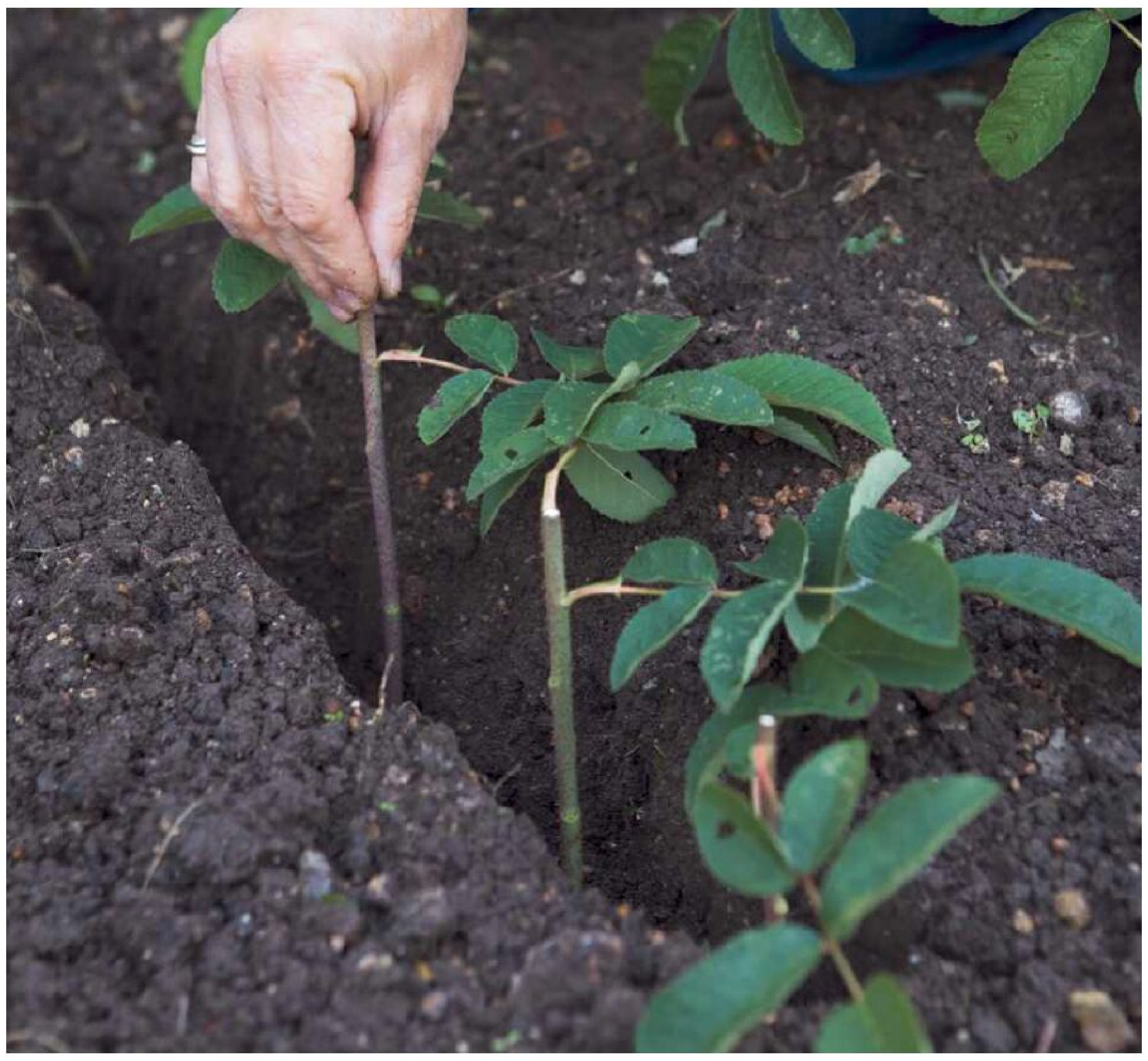
1 Choose a healthy long stem from this year's growth and remove with a straight cut just below a leaf joint. Trim the cutting to 25cm long with secateurs, just below a leaf joint.



2 Make a slanting cut just above a bud/leaf joint at the top; a slanting cut distinguishes the top of each cutting. Leave one leaf set at the top and remove all the lower leaves.



3 Pick a bright site, and make a deep slit down into the soil with a spade. Fill with grit. Dip the base of the cutting into rooting hormone mixture to help the cutting to root.



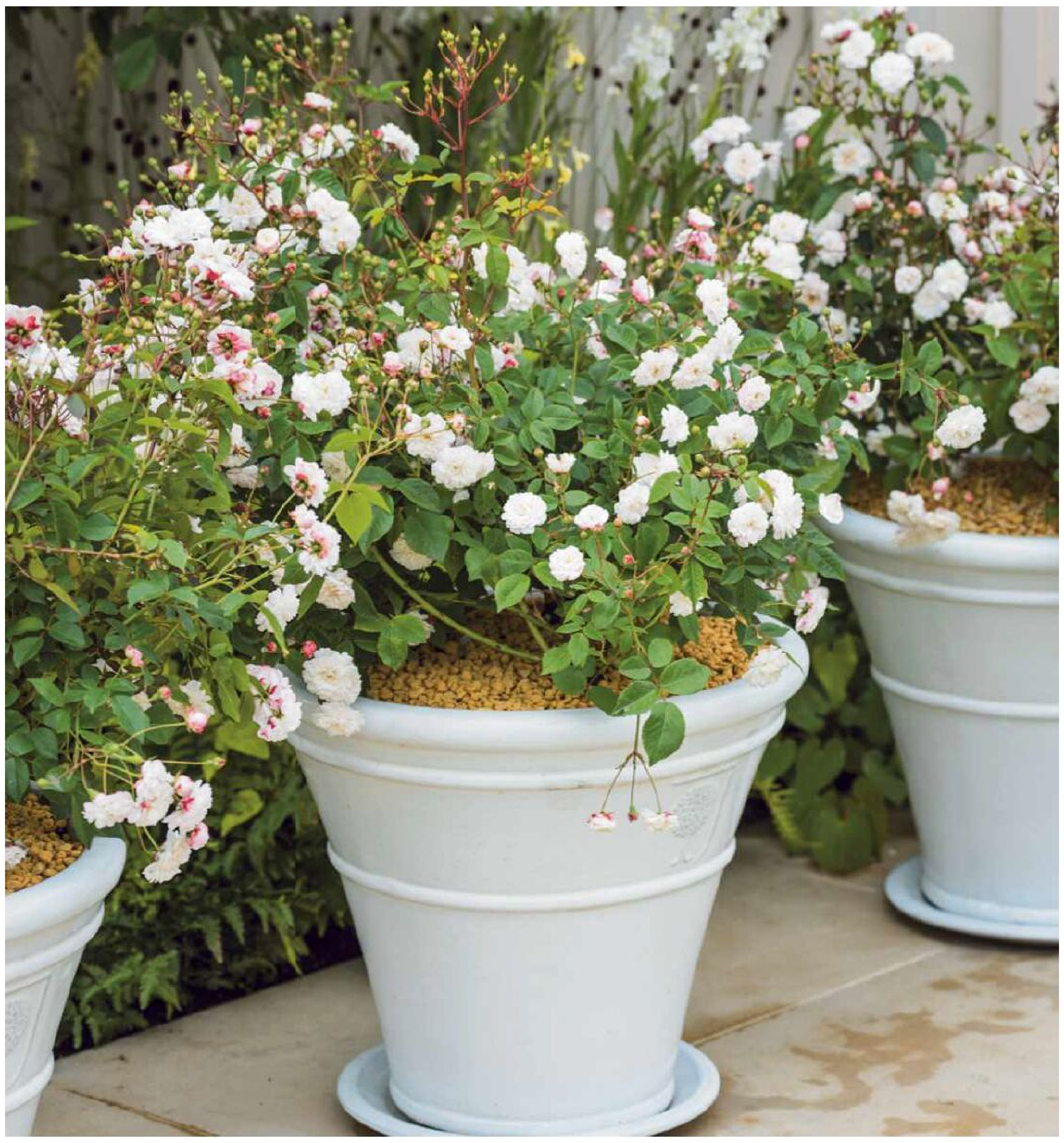
4 Push the cut ends 5cm deep into the soil and space the cuttings 20cm apart, pushing the soil back to bury the cuttings to half their depth. Firm down and water well.

Firm the soil around the cuttings using a spade

EASY PLANTING RECIPES

Roses in pots

You can easily grow roses in pots, but it's essential to choose the right type of rose and container. The obvious choice is the patio or miniature roses that have been bred for pots. These will need a container that's a minimum of 30cm x 30cm. If you want to grow bush, shrub or climbing and rambling roses, you will need a large 60cm x 60cm pot. Team your roses with other flowers or foliage, or make a striking display by showing off a single rose in a complementary pot. Ideally, plant in autumn or spring.

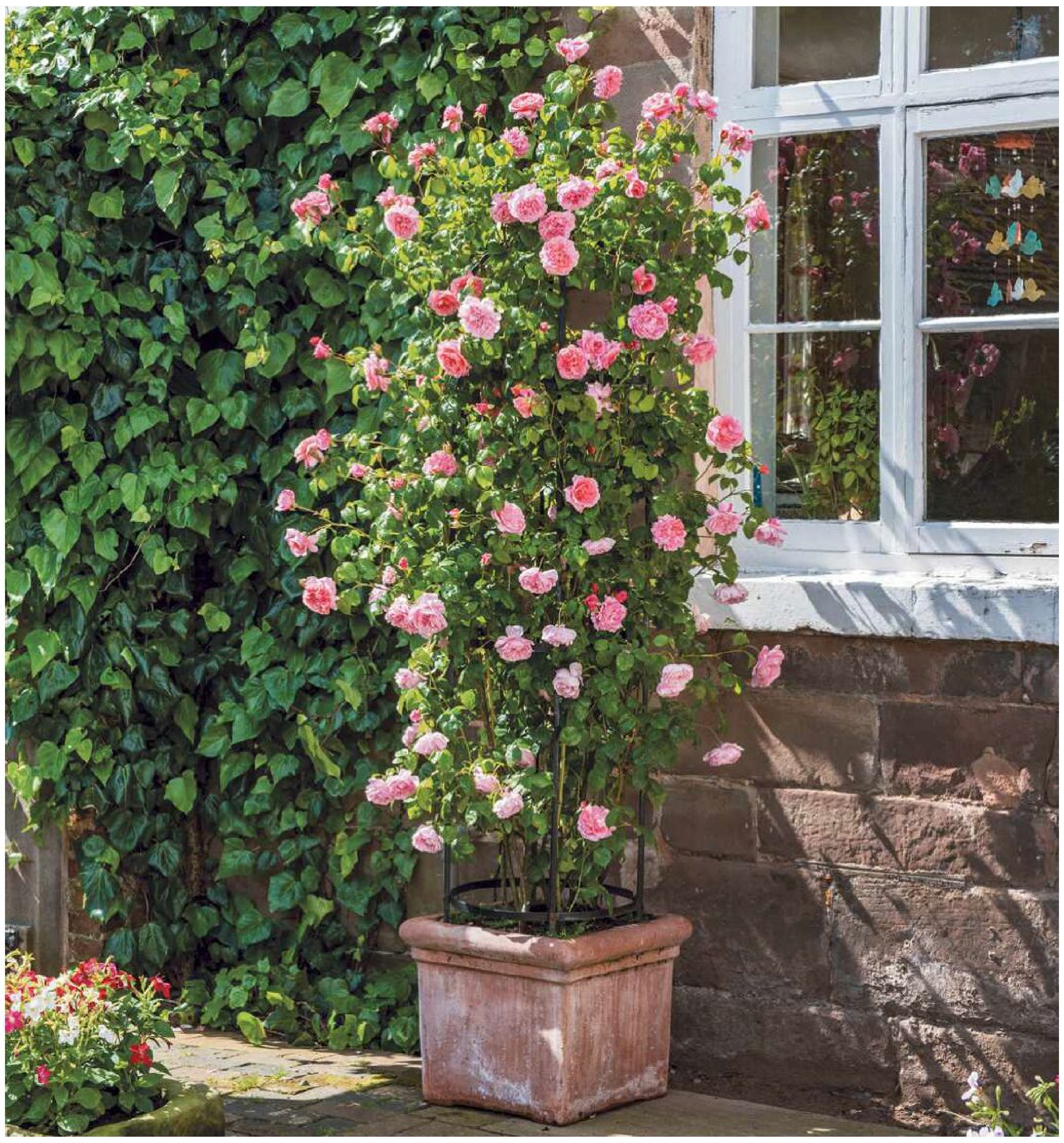


Snow white

Roses are ideal in pots if you're short on space. Choose patio or bush varieties as they're more compact, with less chance of toppling over in windy weather. Buy bare-root plants in late autumn, or potted ones in spring. Prune back hard in early spring and feed with rose fertiliser. Here, compact 'Little White Pet' and a glazed white pot make perfect partners.

We used 'Little White Pet' x 1, 45cm glazed round container

Flowers July to September



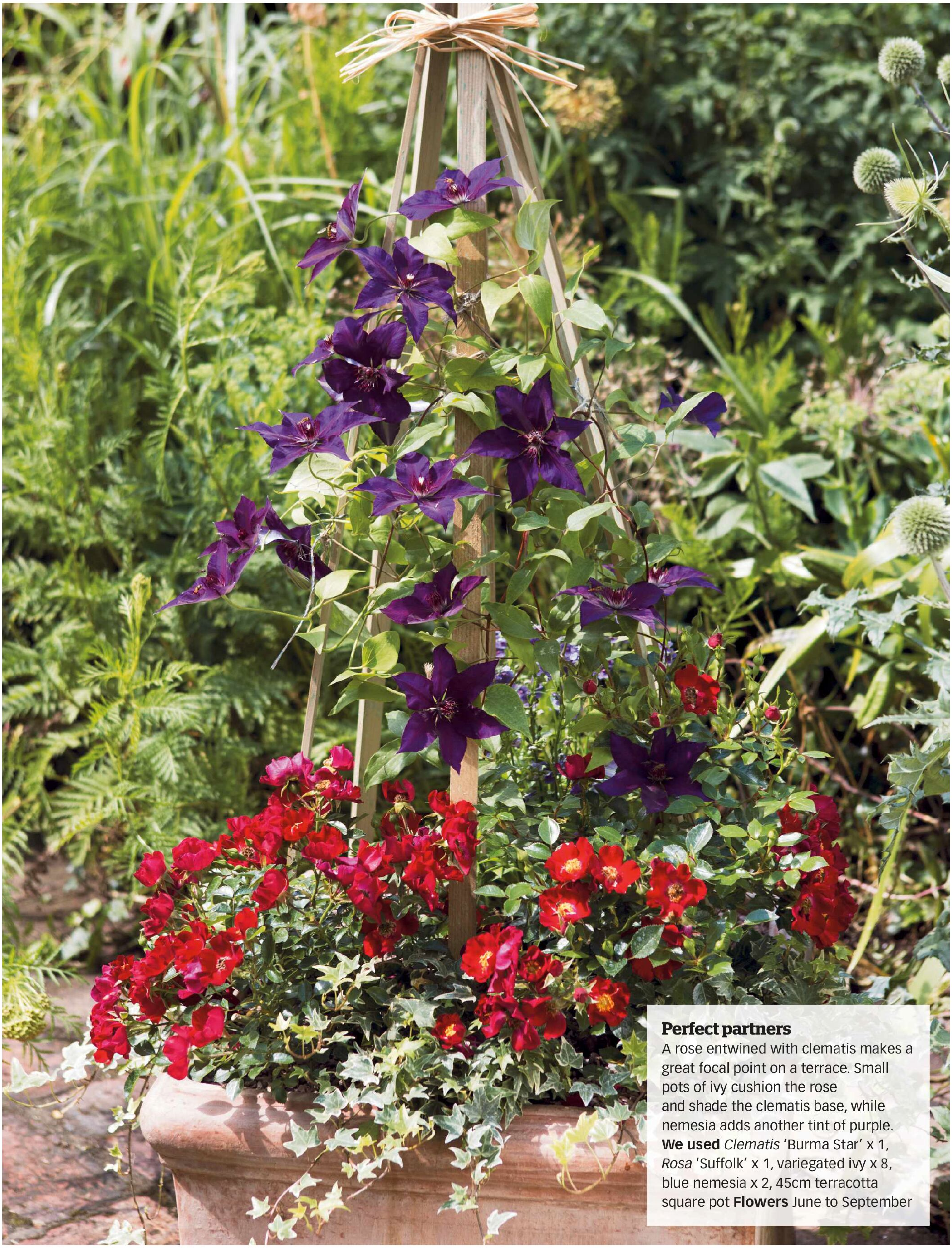
Fragrant focus

Climbing roses are a good choice for pots, but choose a short-growing variety that is not too vigorous, such as 'Strawberry Hill'. This rose is perfect to grow up a support in a container and will be covered in beautifully scented flowers all summer long. Its fragrance is a mix of myrrh and honey.

We used 'Strawberry Hill' x 1, 60cm earthenware square container

Flowers July to September

Superb scent
Long-flowering French lavender, a clove-scented rose and a dwarf pink tobacco plant offer subtle colours and aromatic scent. Give it a sunny spot.
We used *Rosa* 'Gertrude Jekyll' x 1, *Nicotiana* 'Avalon Bright Pink' x 1, *Lavendula* 'Regal Splendour' x 1, 35cm concrete round container
Flowers June to October



Perfect partners

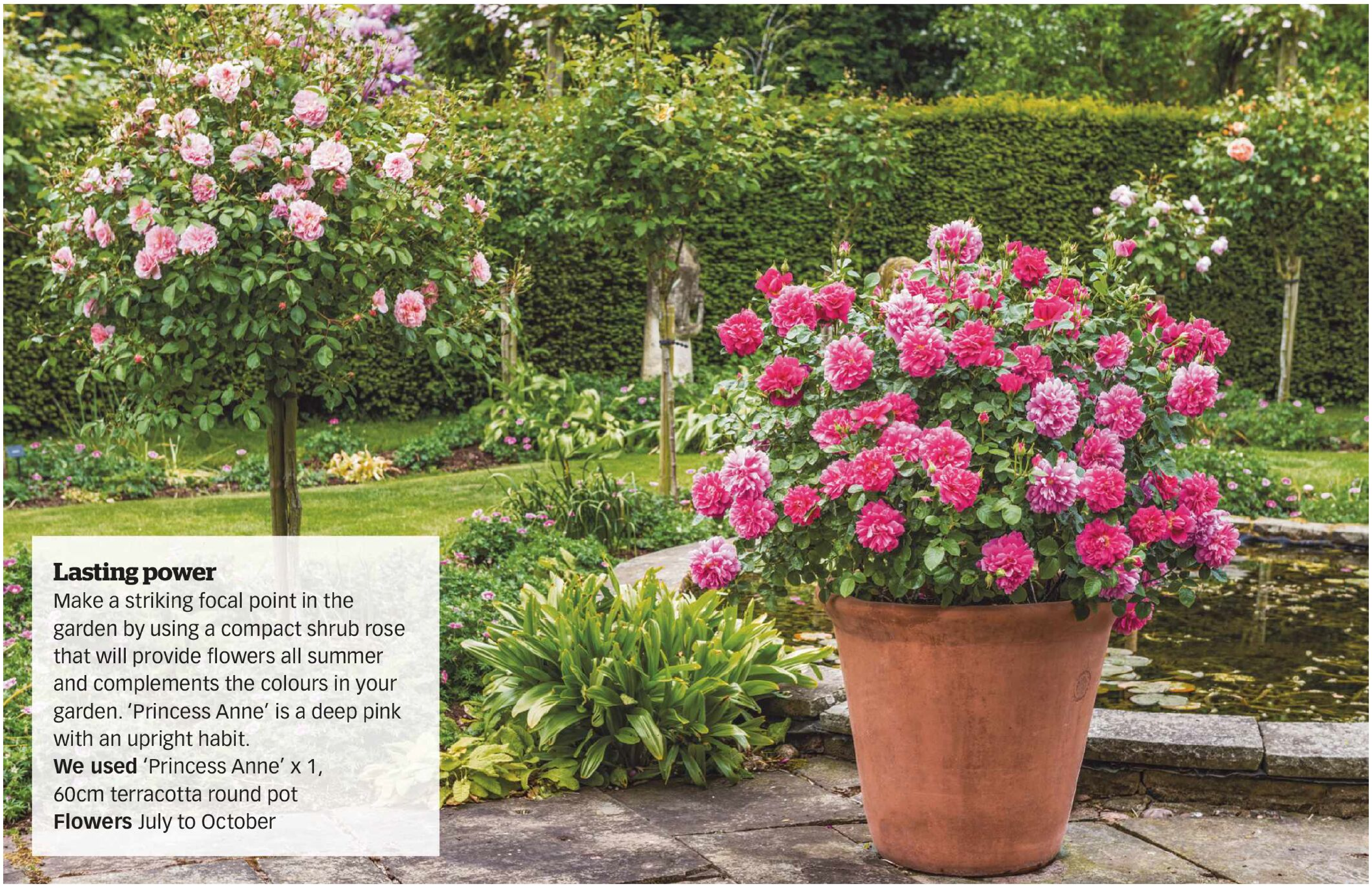
A rose entwined with clematis makes a great focal point on a terrace. Small pots of ivy cushion the rose and shade the clematis base, while nemesia adds another tint of purple. **We used** *Clematis* 'Burma Star' x 1, *Rosa* 'Suffolk' x 1, variegated ivy x 8, blue nemesia x 2, 45cm terracotta square pot **Flowers** June to September

Colourful clusters

For a modern look, try a vibrant pink rose in a slate-grey pot. 'Flower Carpet Coral' produces clusters of pretty flowers over a long period. It's perfect for a pot as it's a ground-cover rose that remains compact.

We used 'Flower Carpet Coral' x 1, 45cm concrete square planter

Flowers June to November

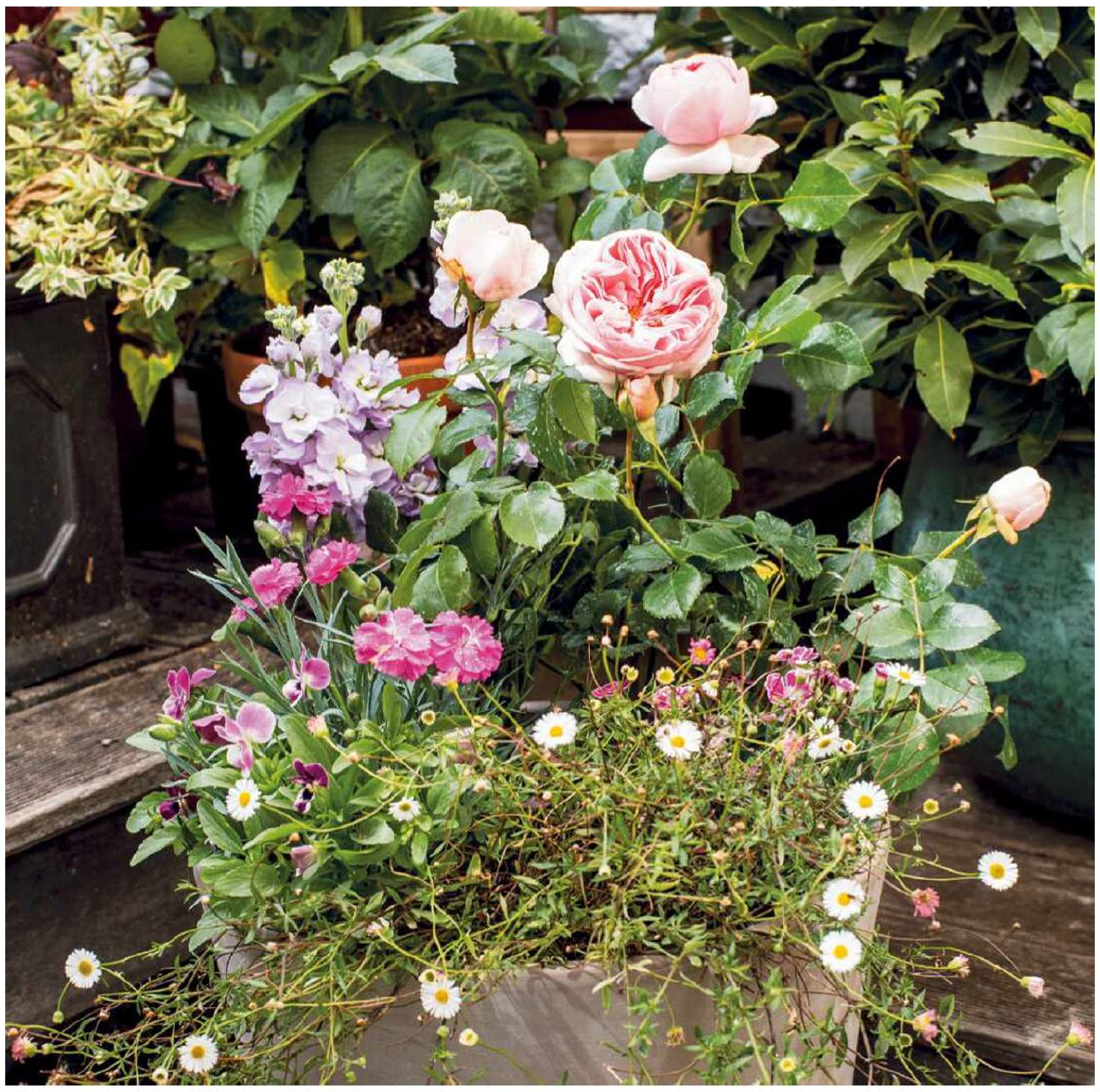


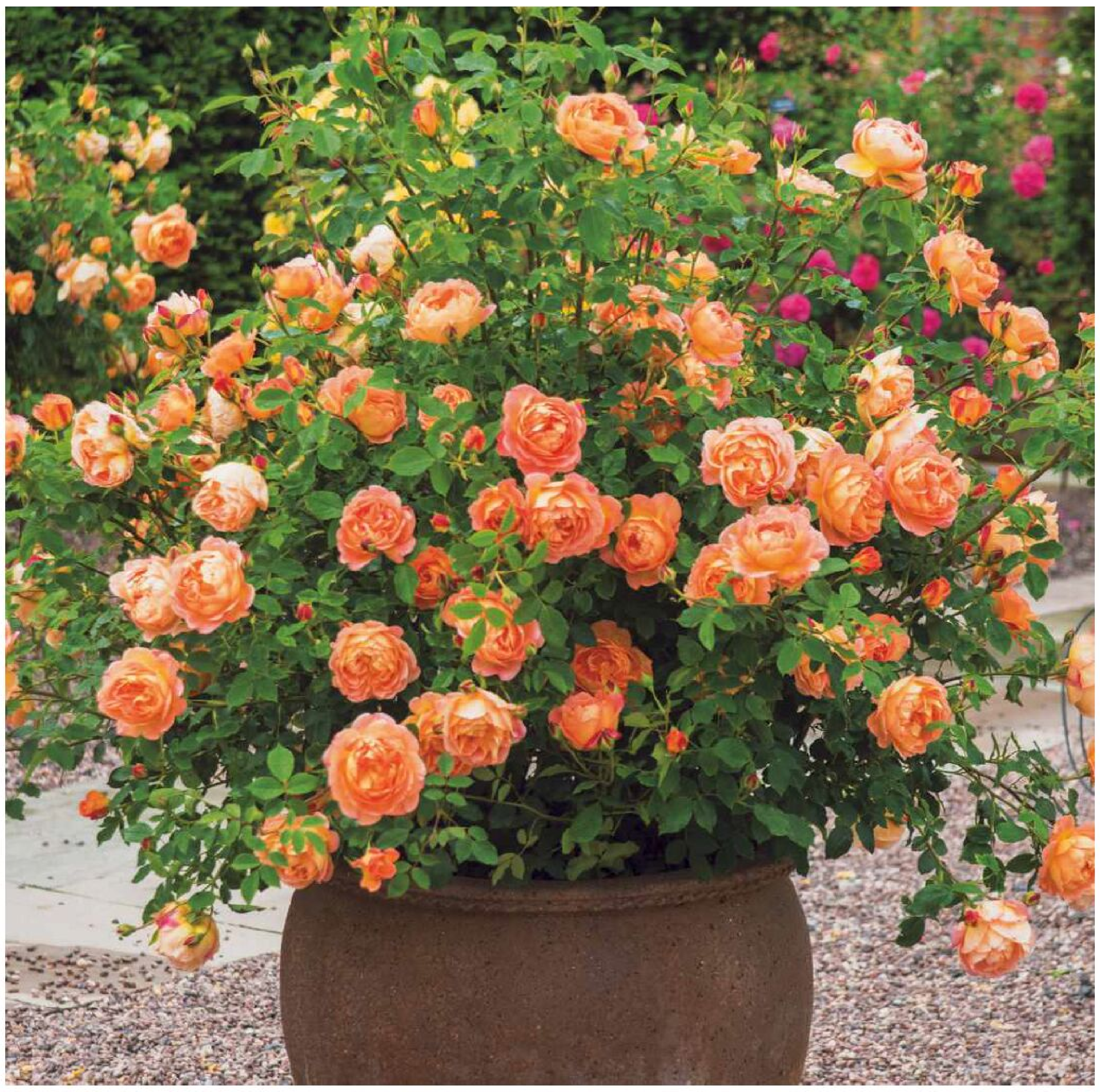
Lasting power

Make a striking focal point in the garden by using a compact shrub rose that will provide flowers all summer and complements the colours in your garden. 'Princess Anne' is a deep pink with an upright habit.

We used 'Princess Anne' x 1, 60cm terracotta round pot

Flowers July to October





Pink and perfumed

Climbing roses such as highly-scented 'The Generous Gardener' can be grown in containers, trained against a boundary as they start to get taller. Trailing and edging plants will add extra interest at the base.

We used 'The Generous Gardener' x 1, *Erigeron karvinskianus* x 1, *Dianthus* 'Tickled Pink x 1, *Viola* 'Raspberry' x 1, 45cm terracotta pot

Flowers June to October

Orange glow

You'll need a large container for this wonderful shrub rose. Its apricot-orange blooms are complemented by the terracotta pot. A single rose in a pot will make a fantastic focal point on the patio or in a corner of the garden.

We used 'Lady of Shalott' x 1, 60cm terracotta round pot

Flowers June to November

DAVID AUSTIN®

Rooted in nature

AVAILABLE OCTOBER - APRIL

Bare root roses are the traditional way to plant roses, easy to handle and ideal for mass planting. Settled in the ground in autumn, these roses are poised to bloom beautifully come spring, working in harmony with the seasons. Mindfully packaged in recycled paper and potato starch, they offer a kinder, more sustainable way to plant.

5 YEAR GUARANTEE

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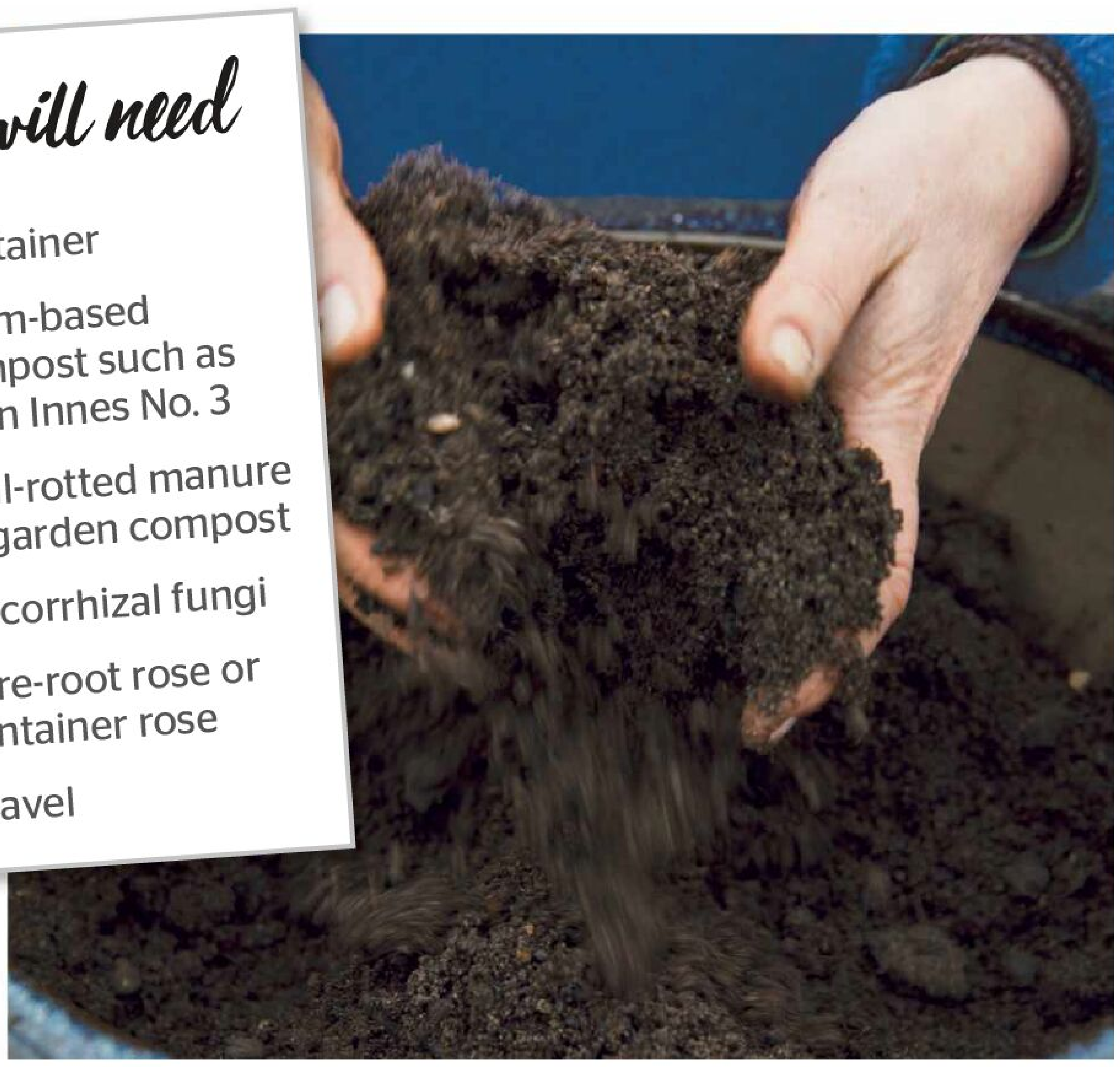
HOW TO

Plant a rose in a pot

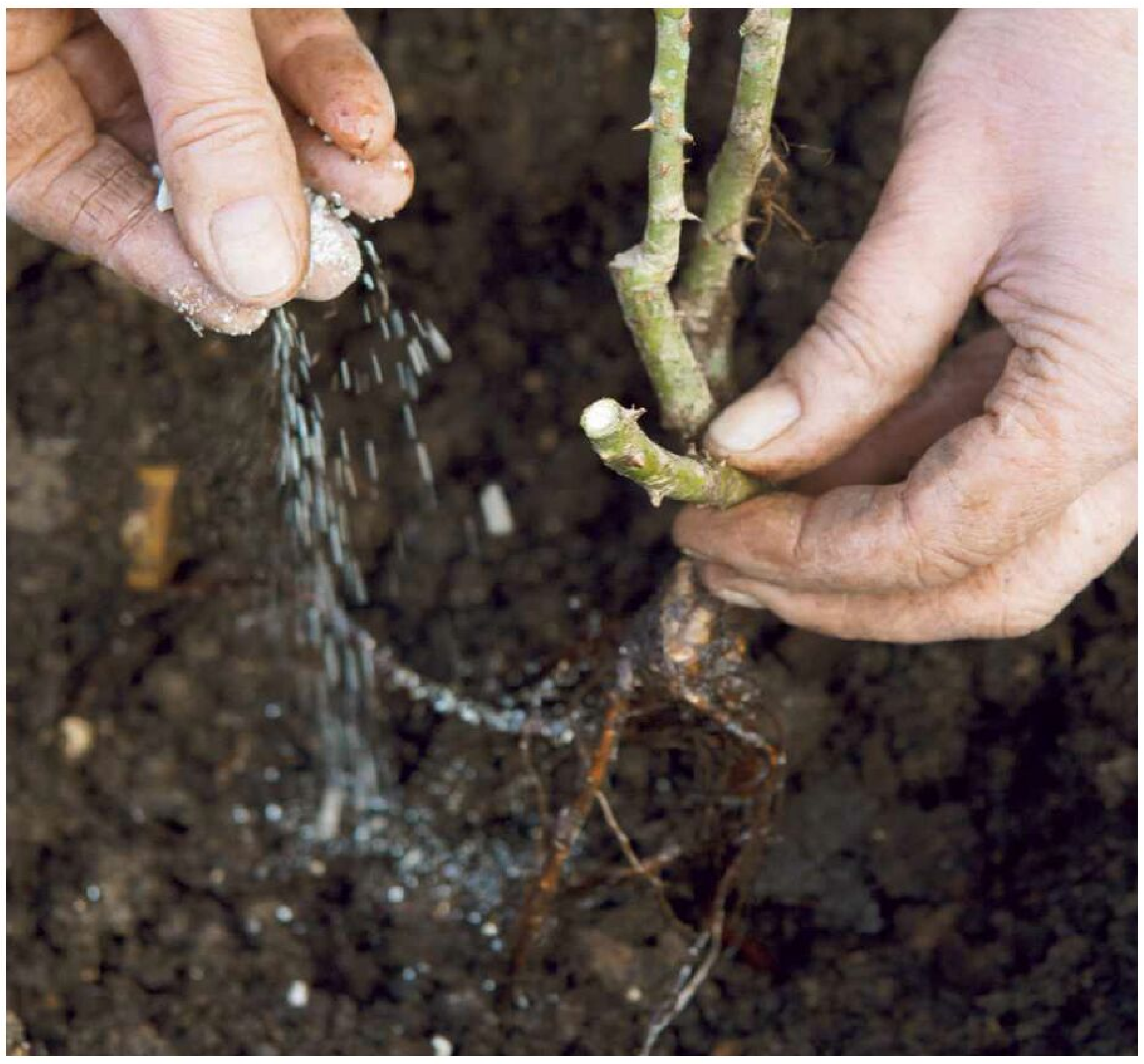
When planting a rose in a pot, ensure it's big enough for the size of rose. The best roses for pots, especially in small spaces, are patio roses as they are bred to remain compact. A loam-based compost will ensure the pot doesn't dry out too quickly and holds nutrients well. Give a liquid feed every couple of weeks in summer.

You will need

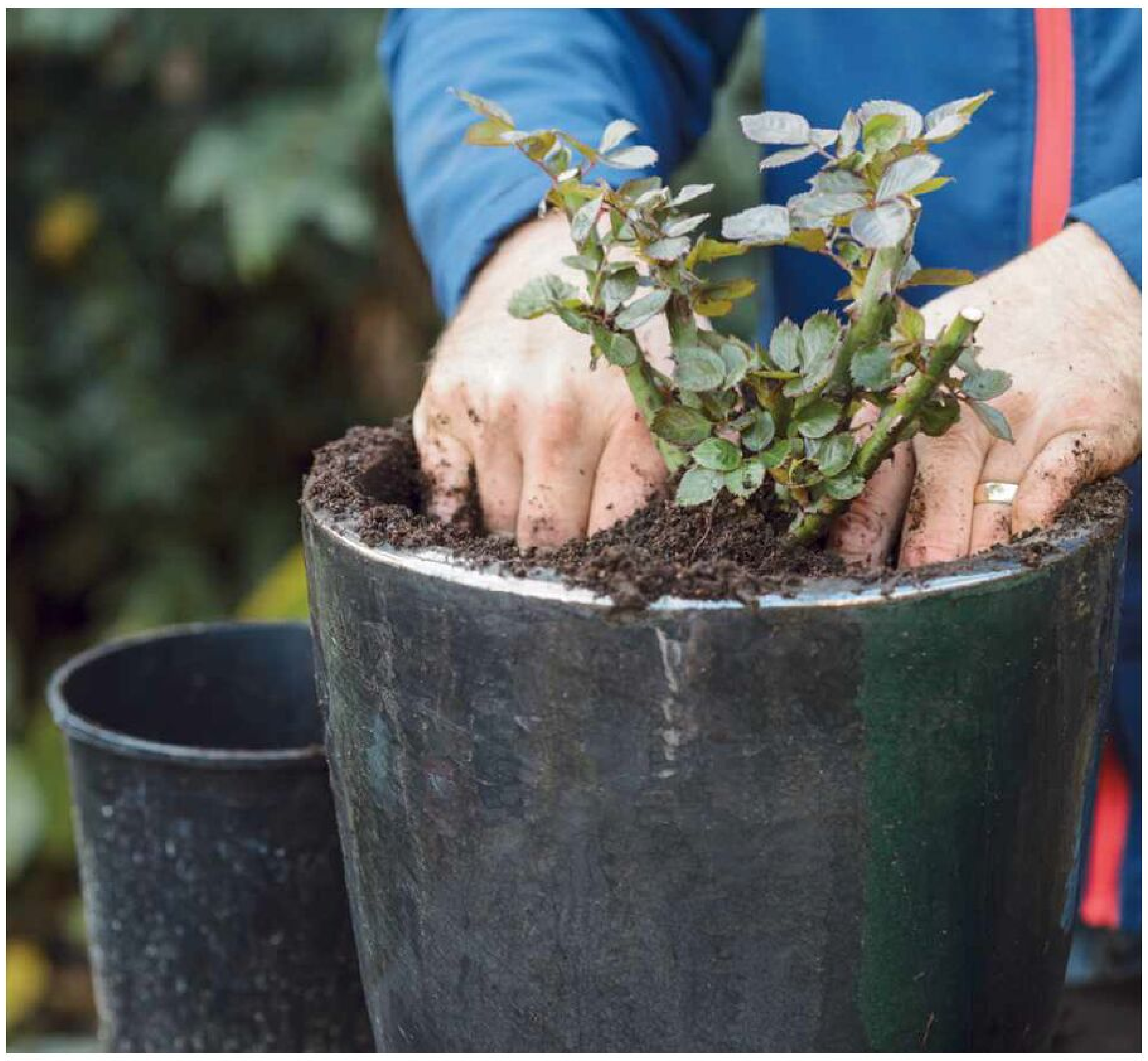
☐ Container
☐ Loam-based compost such as John Innes No. 3
☐ Well-rotted manure or garden compost
☐ Mycorrhizal fungi
☐ Bare-root rose or container rose
☐ Gravel



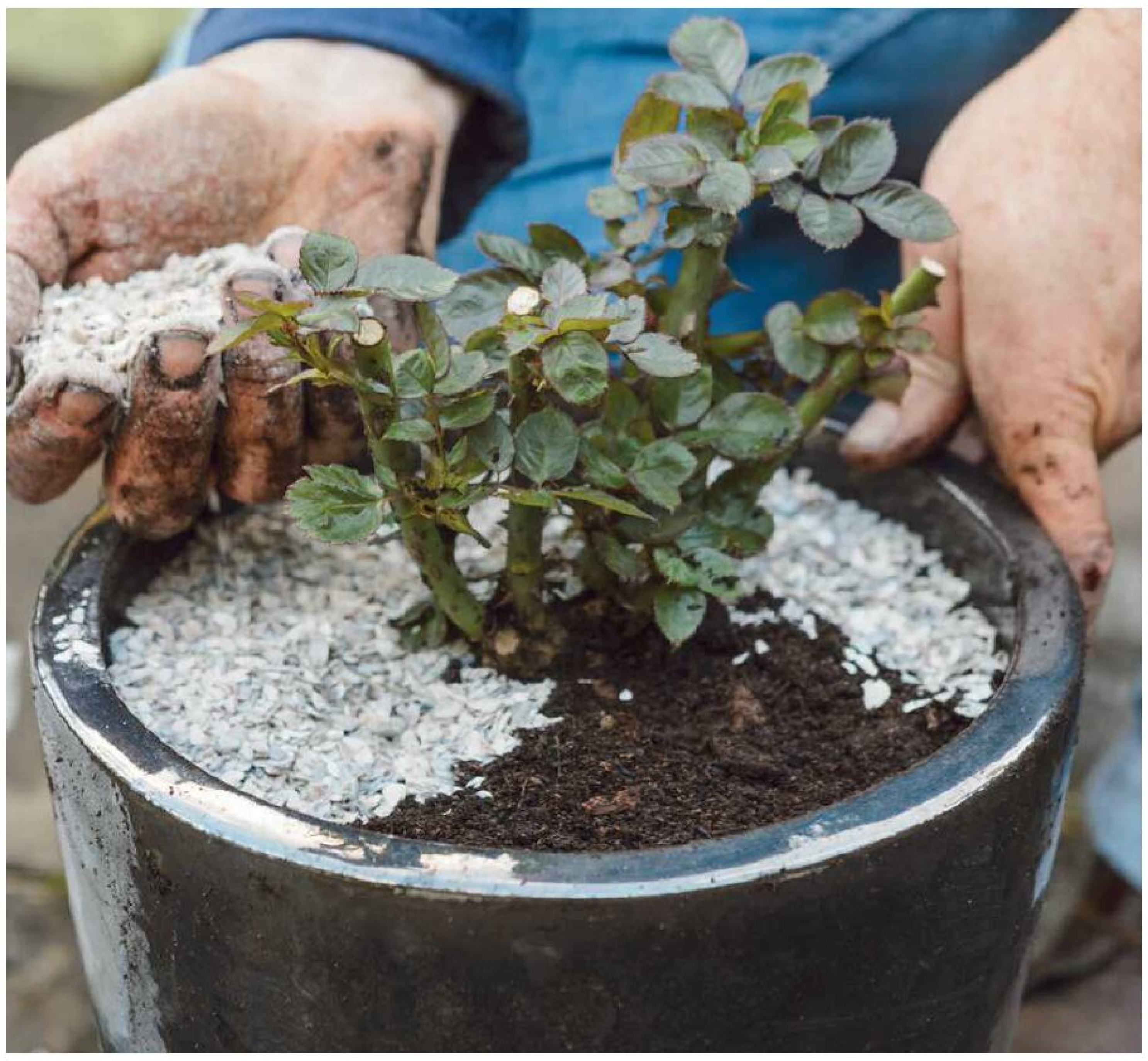
1 Choose a pot big enough for the type of rose, with plenty of drainage holes. Fill two-thirds with loam compost mixed with some well-rotted manure or garden compost.



2 Sprinkle mycorrhizal fungi on the rose roots. Place a bare-root rose on the surface and spread the roots out. With a pot rose, remove from pot and plant at its original depth.



3 Fill around with compost, making sure the bare-root rose is planted at the same depth as the soil mark on the stem. Press around the roots; top up with compost if necessary.



4 Water well and mulch with a 5cm layer of gravel to retain moisture. Put the rose in a bright spot that gets shade for some of the day and give it space so that air can circulate.

Rosa Princess of Wales works well in a patio pot

Climbing roses such as 'Constance Spry' transform boundaries

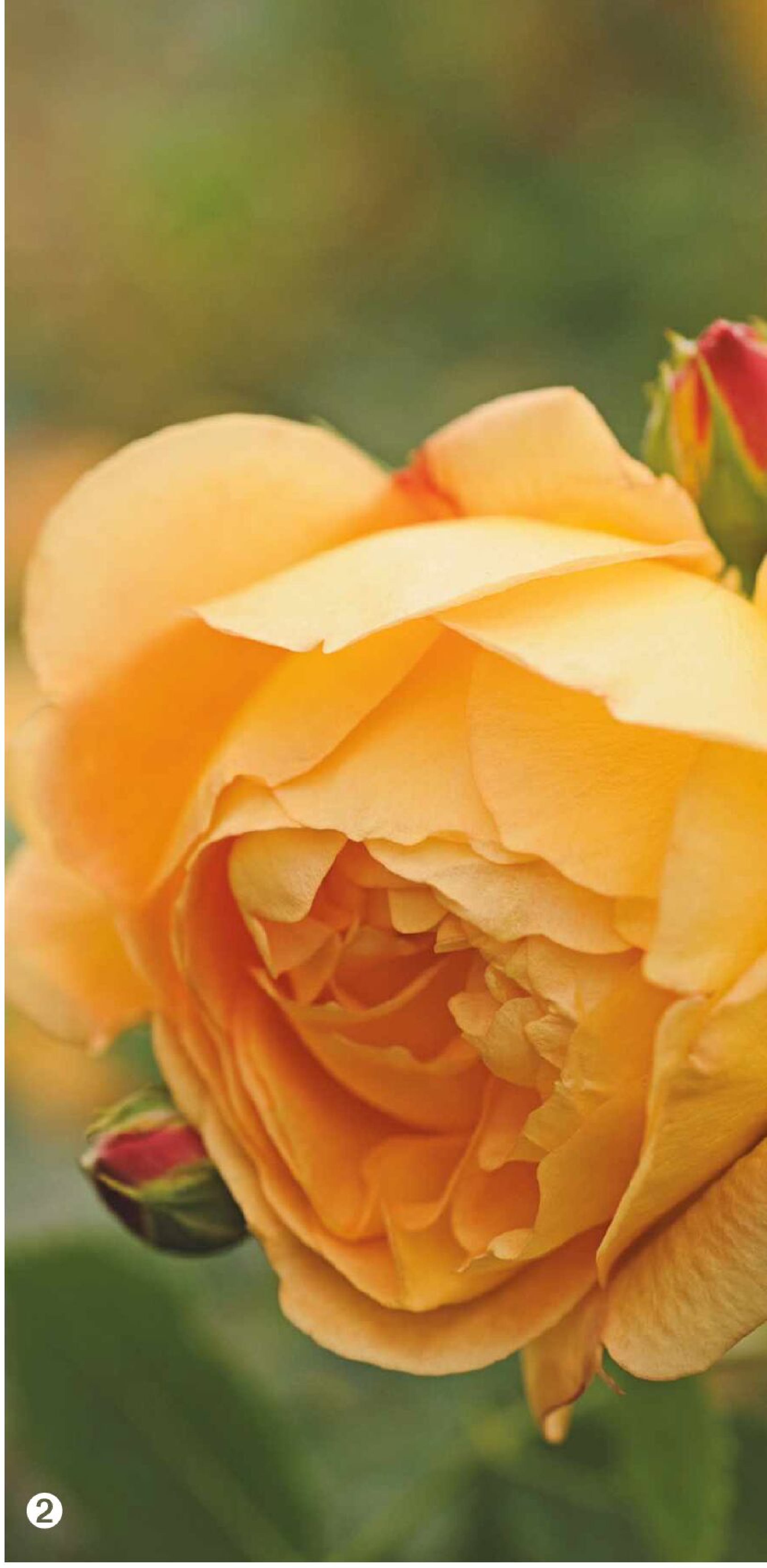
Problem spots

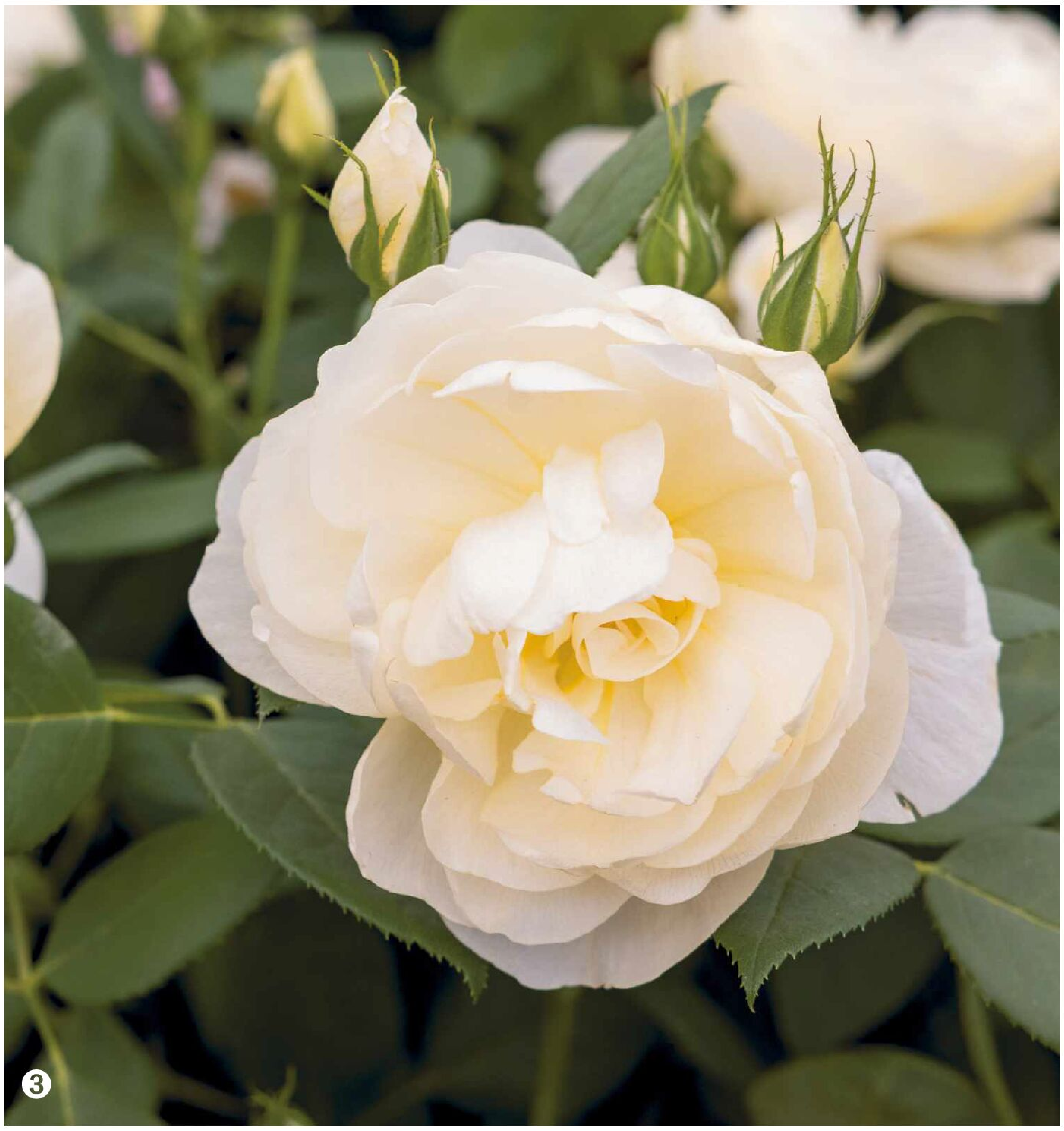
Most roses like a sunny spot, but they are tough plants and if you pick the right variety many thrive in problem areas, such as north-facing walls and exposed positions, and can be used to transform difficult planting areas

5 FOOLPROOF ROSES FOR

Shady spots

Pick the right rose and it can brighten up a shady corner of the garden, providing colour and interest, as well as flowers, hips and shelter for wildlife. Most roses thrive in a sunny position. There are some, though, that grow well in shady areas, as long as the shade isn't caused by trees, which take a lot of moisture from the soil. There are very few roses that can take full shade, so bear in mind that roses will still need some sun – the minimum you'll need to provide is around four hours of sunshine per day in summer.





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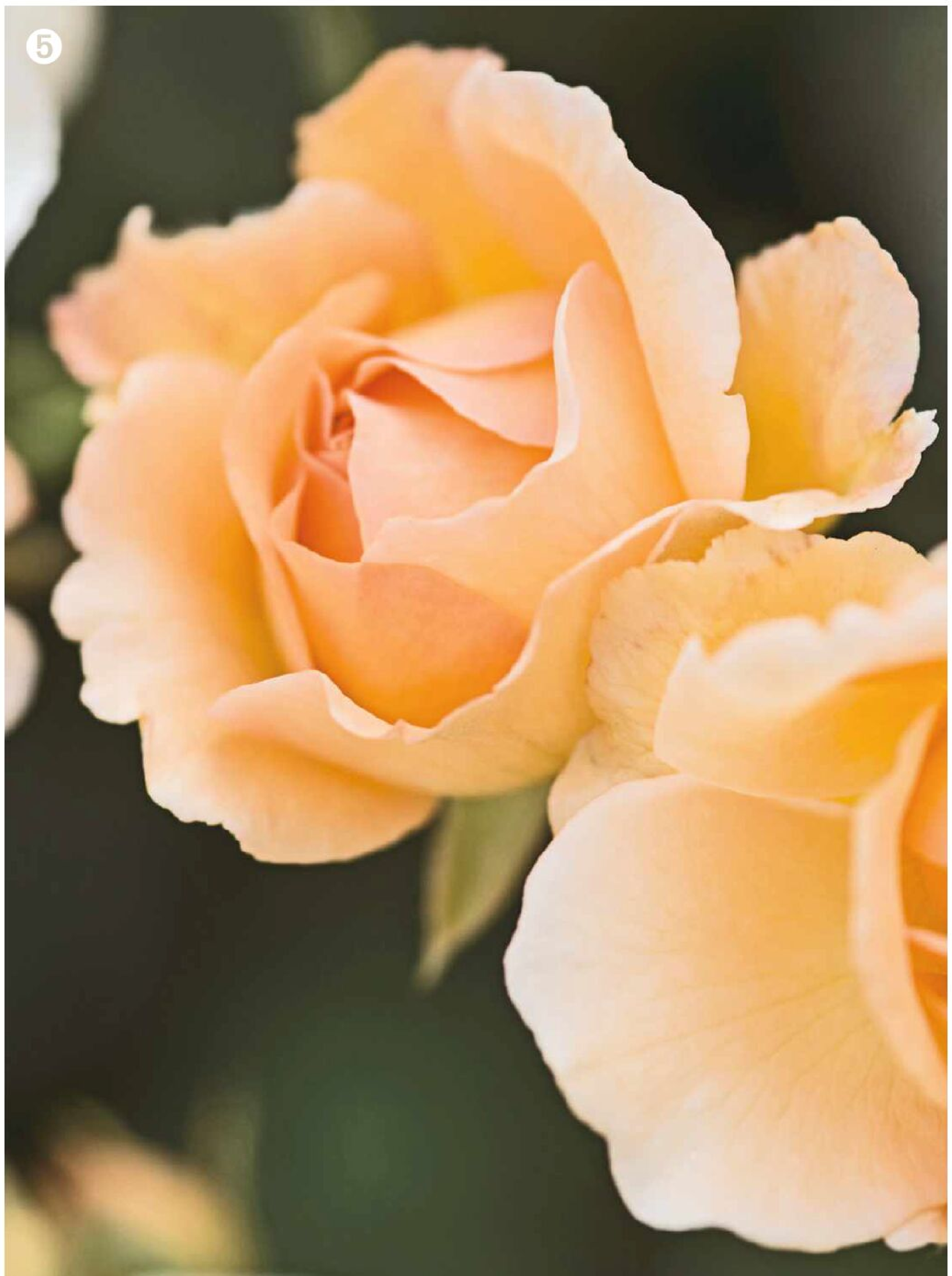

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❶ *R.* 'Gertrude Jekyll'

'Gertrude Jekyll' is an English shrub rose that will grow happily in partial shade and has soft pink double blooms with a strong 'old rose' fragrance. It's perfect for growing in a mixed border and can also be grown as a hedge or short climber. It will mature into a medium-sized, upright shrub.

Flowers May to October

Height x Spread 1.2m x 1m

❷ *R.* 'Lady of Shalott'

The 'Lady of Shalott' variety is a robust shrub rose that has fragrant, fully double apricot-orange blooms opening from reddish buds. It will grow well in partial shade and can also be trained as a short climber.

Flowers June to November

H x S 1.2m x 90cm

❸ *R.* 'Vanessa Bell'

This is a very attractive pale-yellow rose. It is a modern repeat-flowering shrub rose with a vigorous, upright habit and its elegant flowers have a sweet tea fragrance. It is a good variety for growing in containers, as well as in shade.

Flowers June to November

H x S 1.5m x 1.2m

❹ *R.* 'Félicité Perpétue'

You'll need space for this attractive rambling rose as it's very vigorous. In summer, it has masses of double creamy white or pink flowers set off by glossy green foliage.Grow 'Félicité Perpétue' against a wall or up a tree. It is more tolerant of shade than other roses, and can even be grown against a north-facing wall.

Flowers July to August

H x S 6m x 4m

❺ *R.* 'Buff Beauty'

'Buff Beauty' is a repeat-flowering hybrid musk rose with double, lightly scented apricot-yellow-cream flowers. It will grow well in partial shade – try it at the back of a border where its arching stems can be tied to supports or trained as a climber.

Flowers July to September

H x S 1.5m x 1.5m

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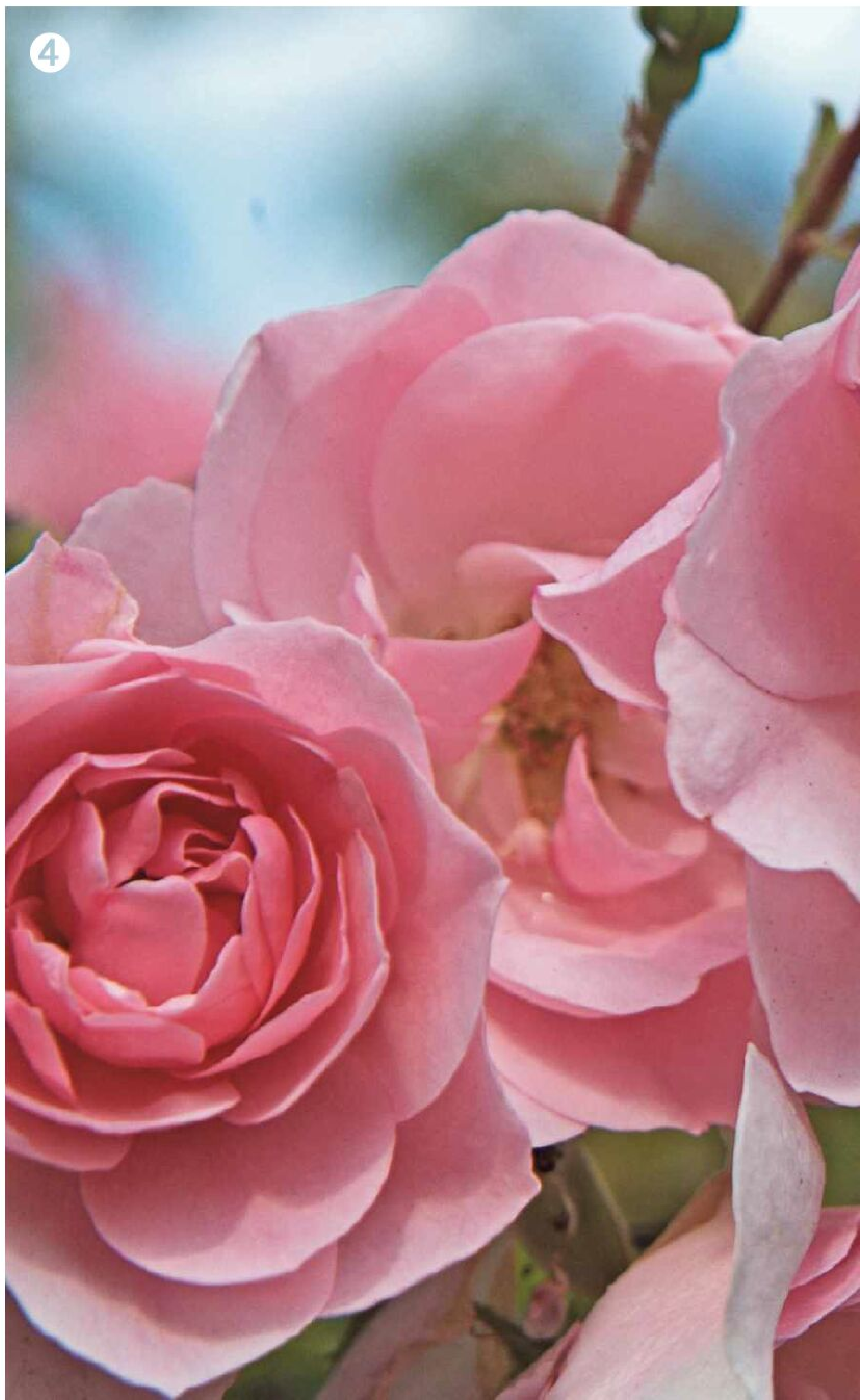

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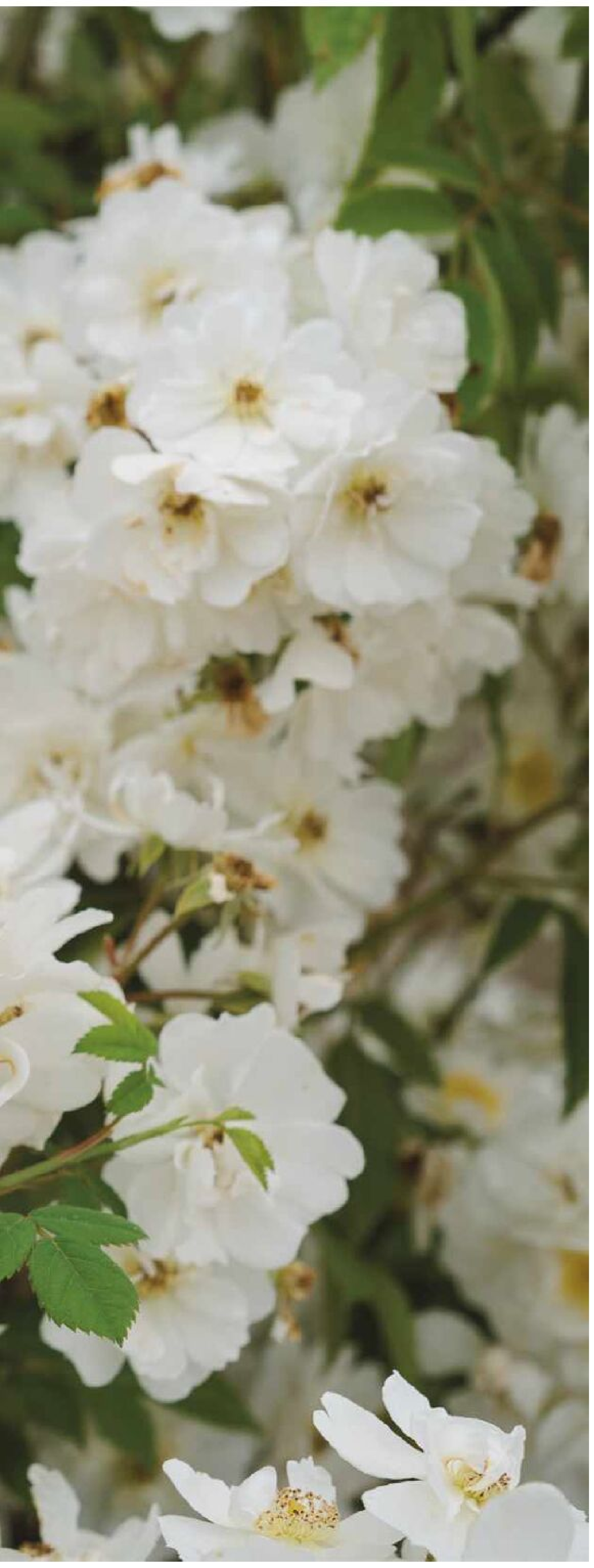
5 FOOLPROOF ROSES FOR

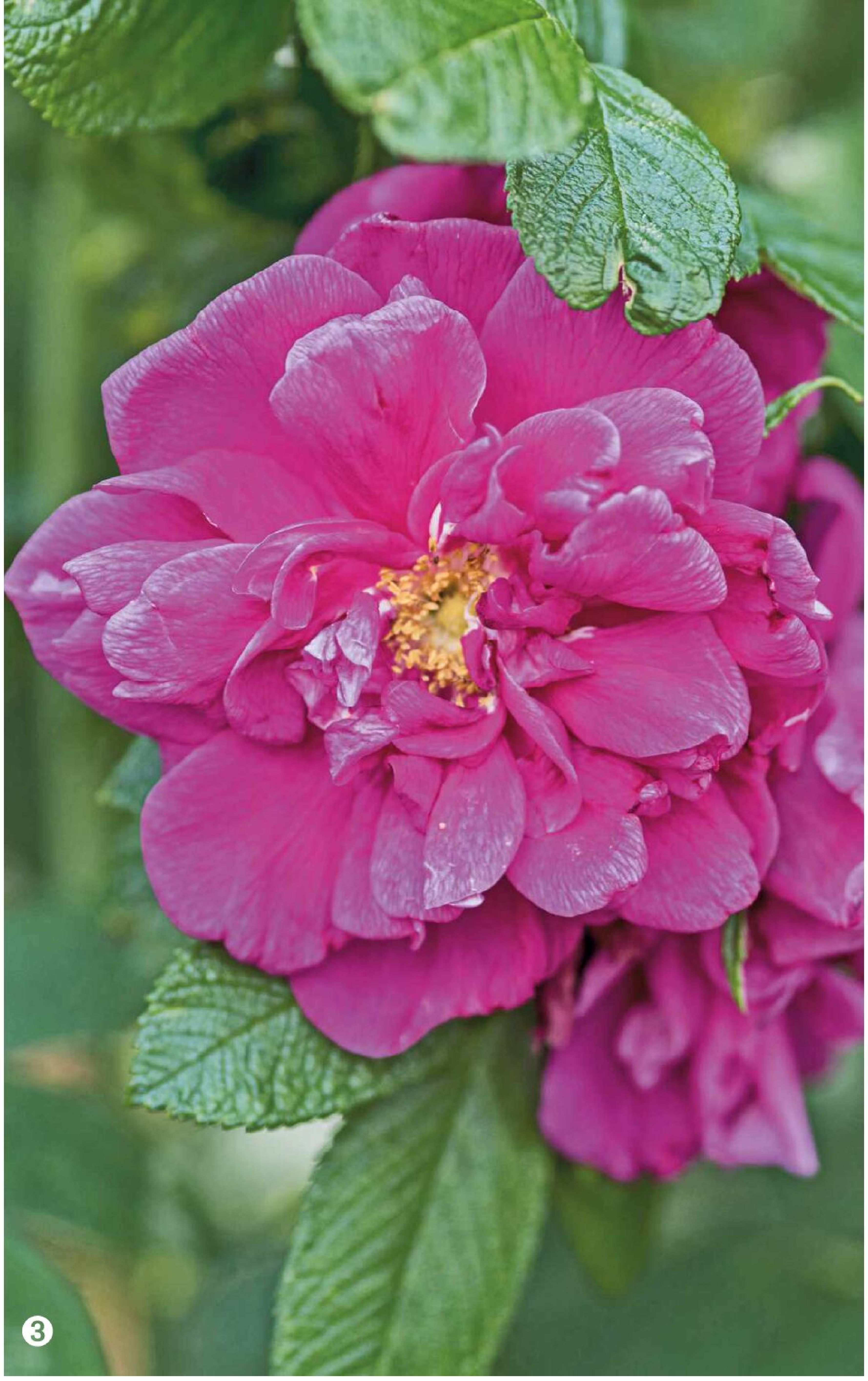
Poor soil

Although most roses benefit from deep, rich soil, there are plenty of roses that will grow well in poor soil, too. You need robust ones – roses bred with *Rosa rugosa* such as 'Fru Dagmar Hastrup' are a good pick, as are the 'old' roses, which are extremely tough plants.

The roses we've picked will cope with a wide range of growing conditions, from dense, heavy clay to free-draining sandy soil, as well as thin chalk. And their simple flowers mean they're perfect plants for bees and other garden wildlife, too.

Although growing tough roses will help here, it's also a good idea to improve sandy and chalky soil with organic matter.

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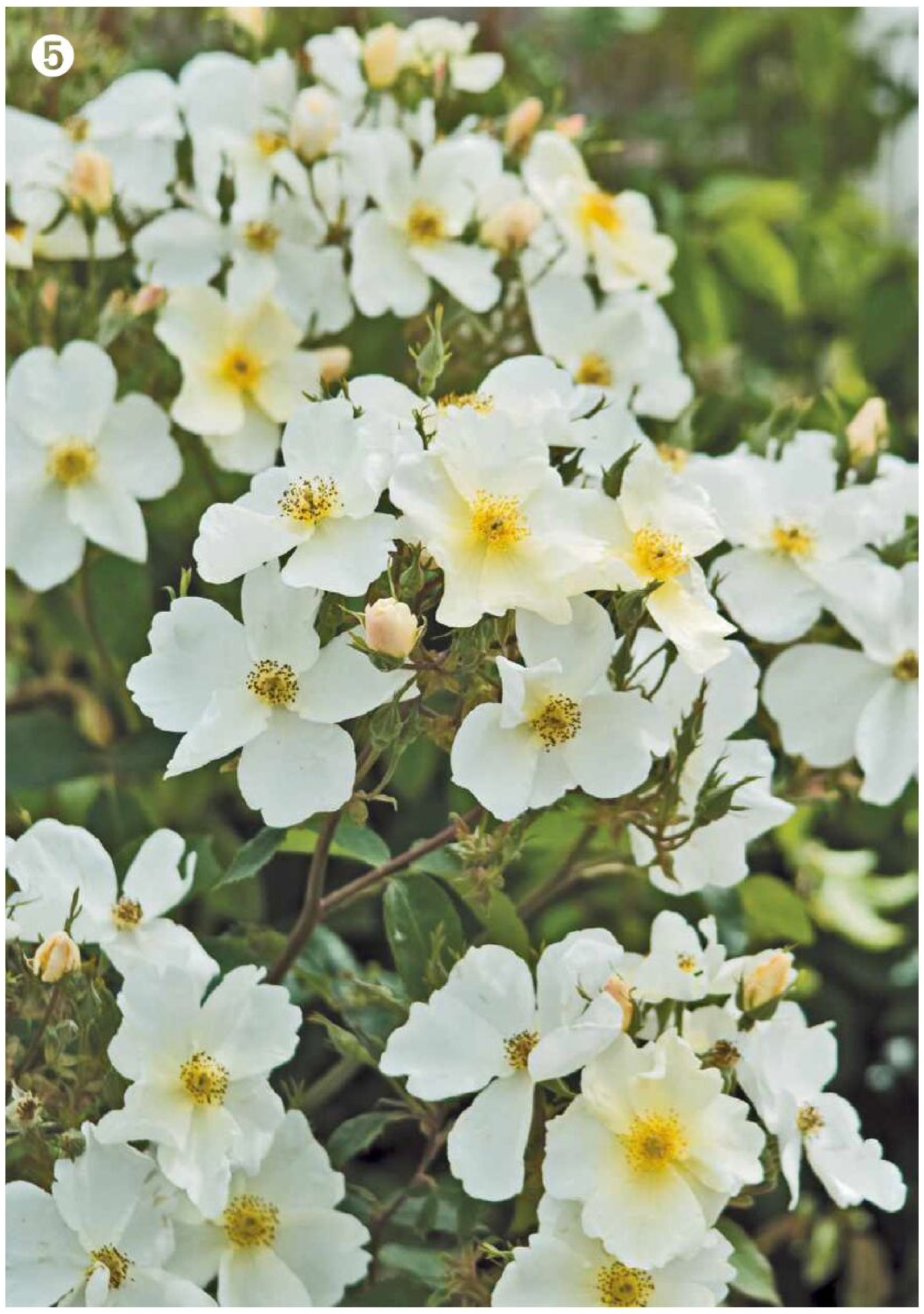
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① *R. gallica* 'Versicolor'

This is a versatile rose that will thrive in all types of soil, from sandy to clay, although it prefers moist and well-drained earth. 'Versicolor' is a striking gallica rose, one of the 'old' roses, that is also referred to as *Rosa mundi*. It has striking striped flowers in shades of pale and dark pink and has a strong fragrance.

Flowers June to August
Height x Spread 1m x 1m

② *R.* 'Rambling Rector'

This strong, vigorous rambler will also grow in any soil. It's a big rose that is healthy, reliable and good in the shade, too – a great choice for growing up trees. Its abundance of scented white flowers are very attractive to bees.

Flowers June to August
H x S 7m x 2m

③ *R.* 'Roseraie de l'Hay'

Like all rugosa roses, 'Roseraie de l'Hay' does very well on sandy soil, but it's a great plant to grow in clay soil, too. It's a vigorous grower and produces large, double purple-crimson flowers that have a very strong fragrance.

Flowers July to September
H x S 2.5m x 2.5m

④ *R.* 'Bonica'

This is a tough shrub rose with pretty pink flowers and small, glossy leaves that is popular for its reliable nature. It will grow in any soil, and its attractive flowers are followed by decorative hips, making it a great choice for birds and bees.

Flowers July to September
H x S 1.2m x 1.2m

⑤ *R.* 'Kew Gardens'

This vigorous shrub rose produces showy clusters of white flowers that appear continuously for a generous period of time. It's also a completely thornless variety. It's also a good choice for an exposed spot and almost thornless.

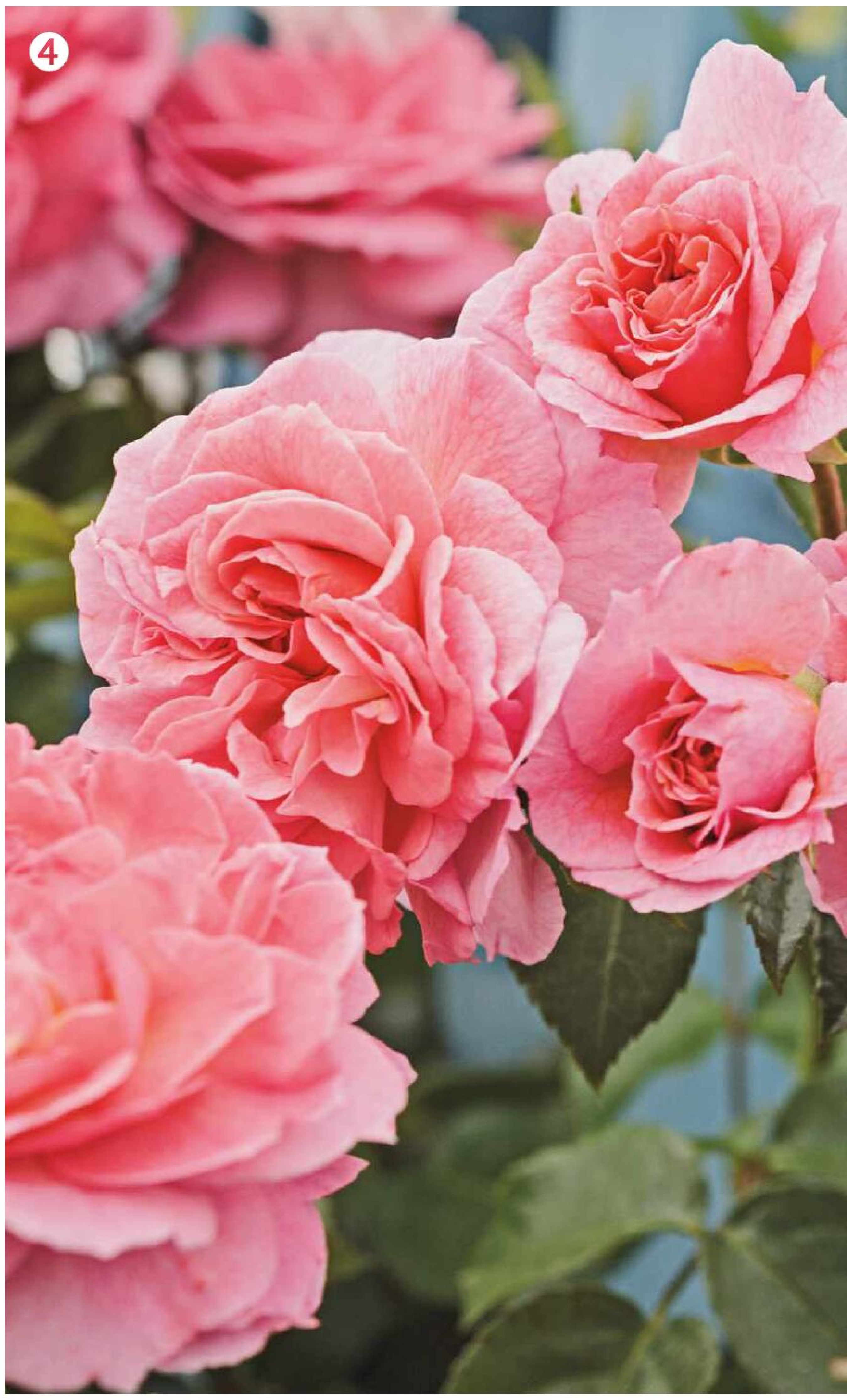
Flowers June to November
H x S 2.5m x 1m

5 FOOLPROOF ROSES FOR

Boundaries

Whether you've got a dull fence in a sunny space that needs brightening up or a problematic north-facing wall, there's a huge variety of climbers and rambling roses to choose from.

It's easy to transform boundaries with roses if you pick the right rose for your aspect. Many are also vigorous growers and can cover an area quickly to provide good coverage, although choose wisely if you have a small garden or short fence because it is difficult to control a rose that is too vigorous for its space.



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① *R.* 'Climbing Iceberg'

This is a repeat-flowering climbing rose that likes to clamber over a wall or fence in full sun. Its lightly scented white flowers have the look of a double flower and they are good for pollinators. Deadhead the blooms regularly to keep it flowering well into autumn.

Flowers June to November

Height x Spread 4m x 2m

② *R.* 'Parkdirektor Riggers'

This variety is a good climber for a north-facing boundary. Grow it at the back of a mixed herbaceous border up a trellis against a wall, or grow up an arbour or another similar support.The clusters of deep red flowers produce a light fragrance.

Flowers June to September

H x S 4m x 1.5m

③ *R.* 'Wedding Day'

Rosa 'Wedding Day' is a vigorous rambling rose with large clusters of scented cream flowers. Its rampant growth makes it perfect for training up into mature trees or covering a large, unsightly structure. It tolerates poor soil and a north-facing aspect, but likes moist, well-drained soil and plenty of space.

Flowers June to August

H x S 8m x 4m

④ *R.* 'Pippin'

'Pippin' is a climbing rose that's perfect for growing up a rose arch, trellis or pergola and may even be grown in a large pot if offered some support. It's repeat-flowering throughout the summer months with masses of double pink blooms in contrast with dark, glossy foliage. The flowers have a delicate, sweet fragrance.

Flowers June to September

H x S 2.5m x 1.2m

⑤ *R.* 'The Pilgrim'

This is a fast-growing climber that's perfect for covering house walls and boundaries with its beautiful, long-lasting bright yellow roses. 'The Pilgrim' is very healthy and has a lovely scent that's described as a mixture of tea and myrrh.

Flowers July to October

H x S 3.5m x 1.2m

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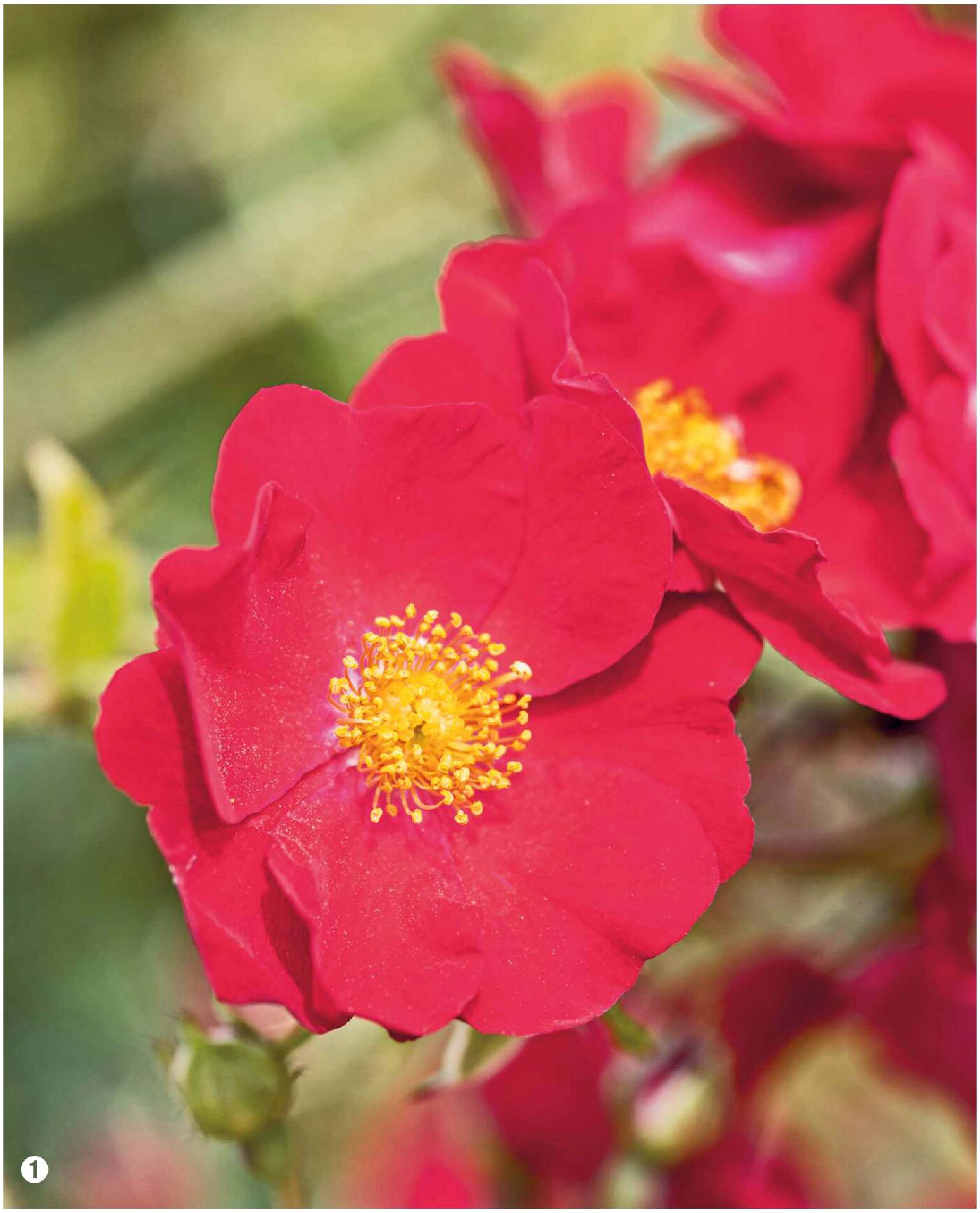
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5 FOOLPROOF ROSES FOR

Ground cover

Ground cover roses are trailing or spreading woody perennials that offer months of flowers. These low-growing roses are perfect for growing in a container or on steep banks that are difficult to garden. Many are modern introductions and have good disease resistance. The Flower Carpet range is very popular. Expect flowers all summer and, if happy, they'll also suppress any weeds. Avoid the sprawling, rambler types if planting in a container though. Roses are hardy plants and can cope with unfavourable conditions, however, in order to thrive, ground cover roses prefer a sunny spot in well-drained, fertile soil. Some will cope with partial shade.

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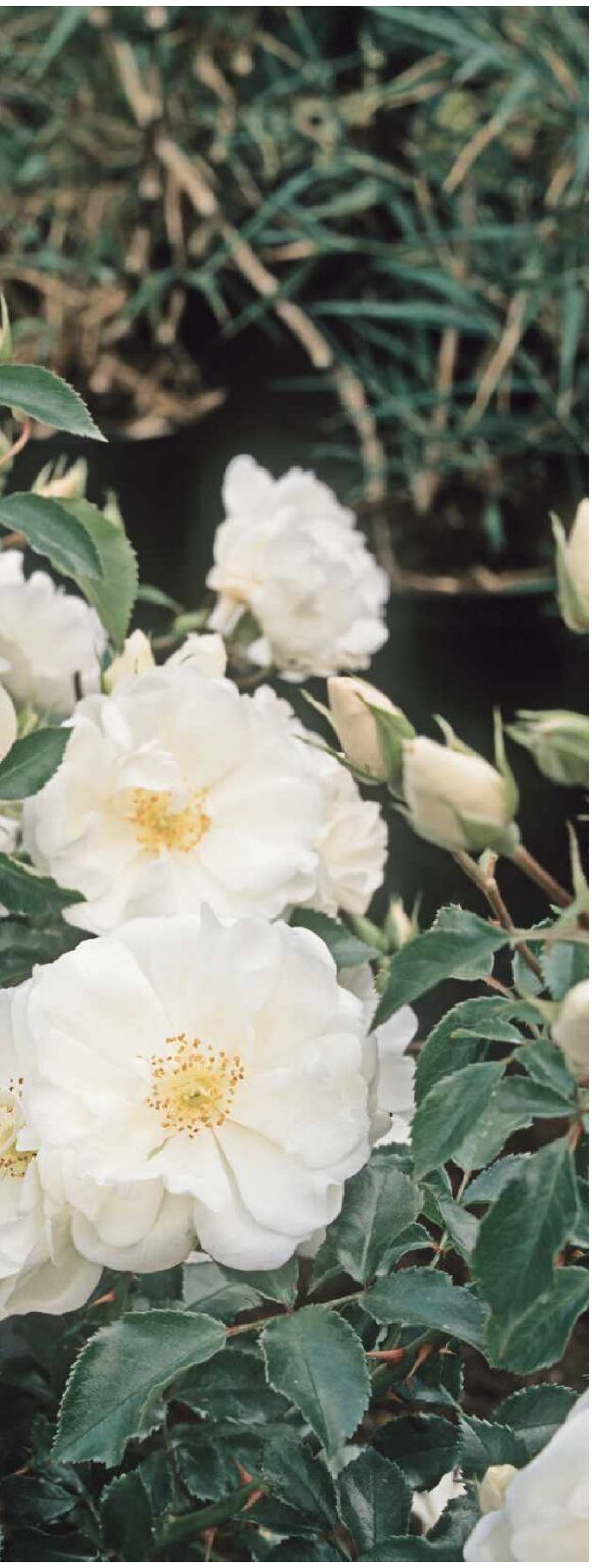

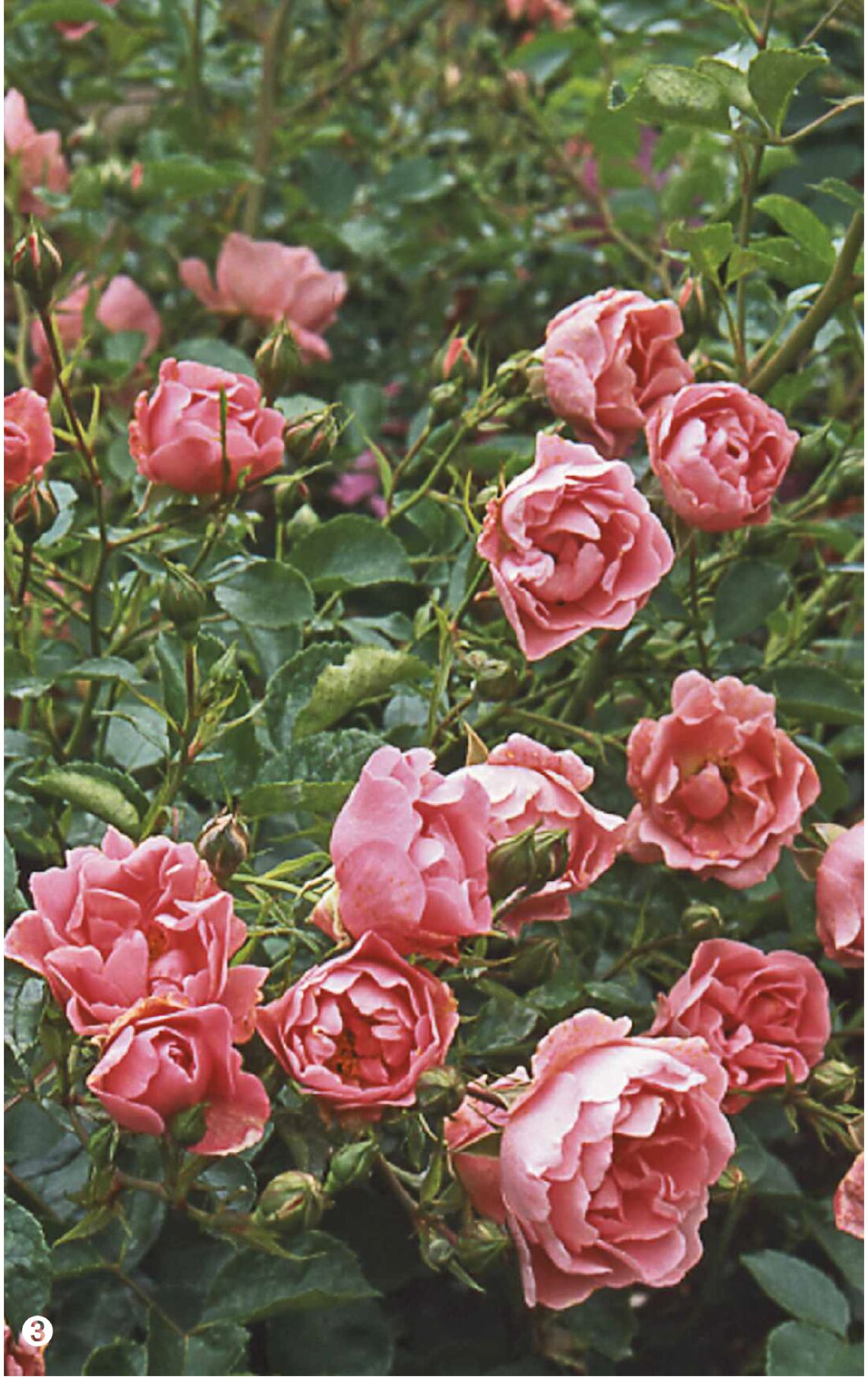

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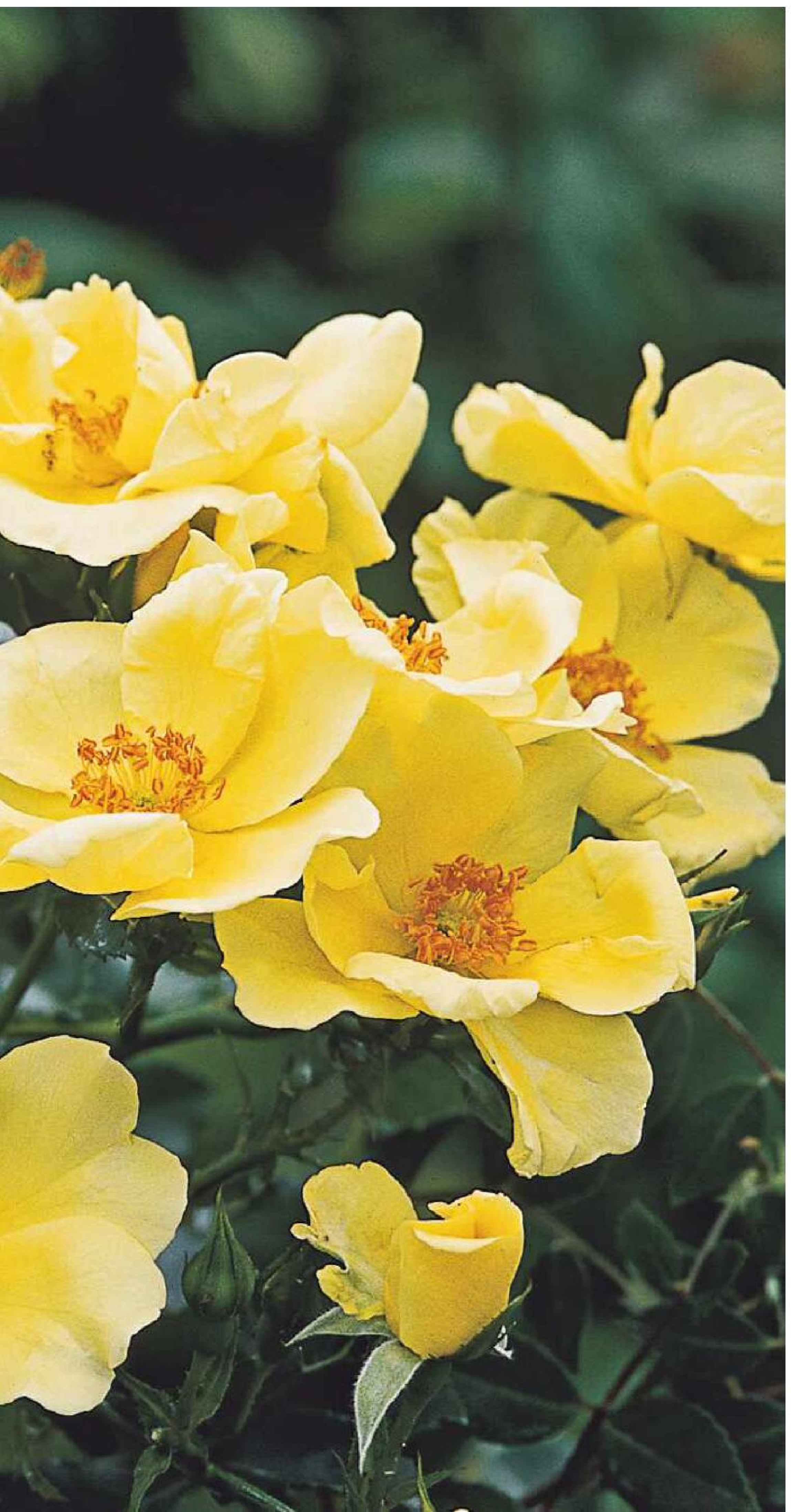

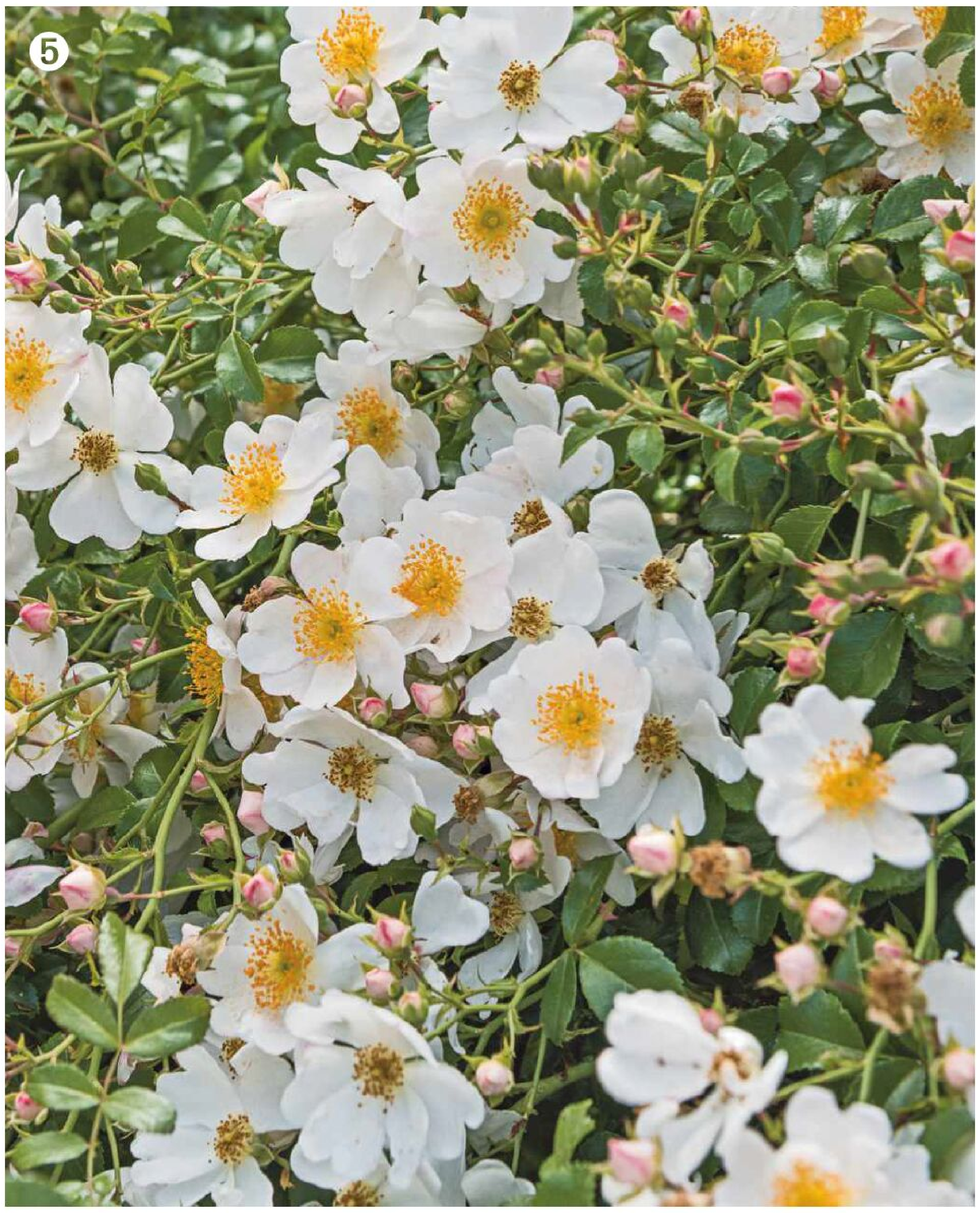

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① *R.* 'Flower Carpet Red Velvet'

This is a popular and well-known ground cover rose, bearing bright red, yellow-eyed flowers throughout summer. It's smaller than some spreading varieties, making more of a mound than a carpet. It makes a fine semi-trailing container shrub. The single, open nature of its flowers make it a good plant for bees.

Flowers June to September
Height x Spread 60cm x 70cm

② *R.* 'White Flower Carpet'

This is a remarkably easy rose to grow and it has very good resistance to disease. It flowers prolifically from late spring and through the summer, bearing semi-double white flowers with yellow centres set off by healthy, glossy green leaves.

Flowers June to September
H x S 60cm x 60cm

③ *R.* 'Surrey'

Fill the gaps in your borders with this fragrant, double rose-pink variety from the County Series. It's vigorous, has a glorious fragrance and will repeat-flower through summer. It prefers moist but well-drained soil.

Flowers July to September
H x S 60cm x 1.2m

④ *R.* 'Worcestershire'

This repeat-flowering variety has clusters of semi-double bright yellow blooms and lies tight to the ground. It produces a light fragrance and prefers moist but well-drained soil.

Flowers June to September
H x S 1m x 1m

⑤ *R.* 'Partridge'

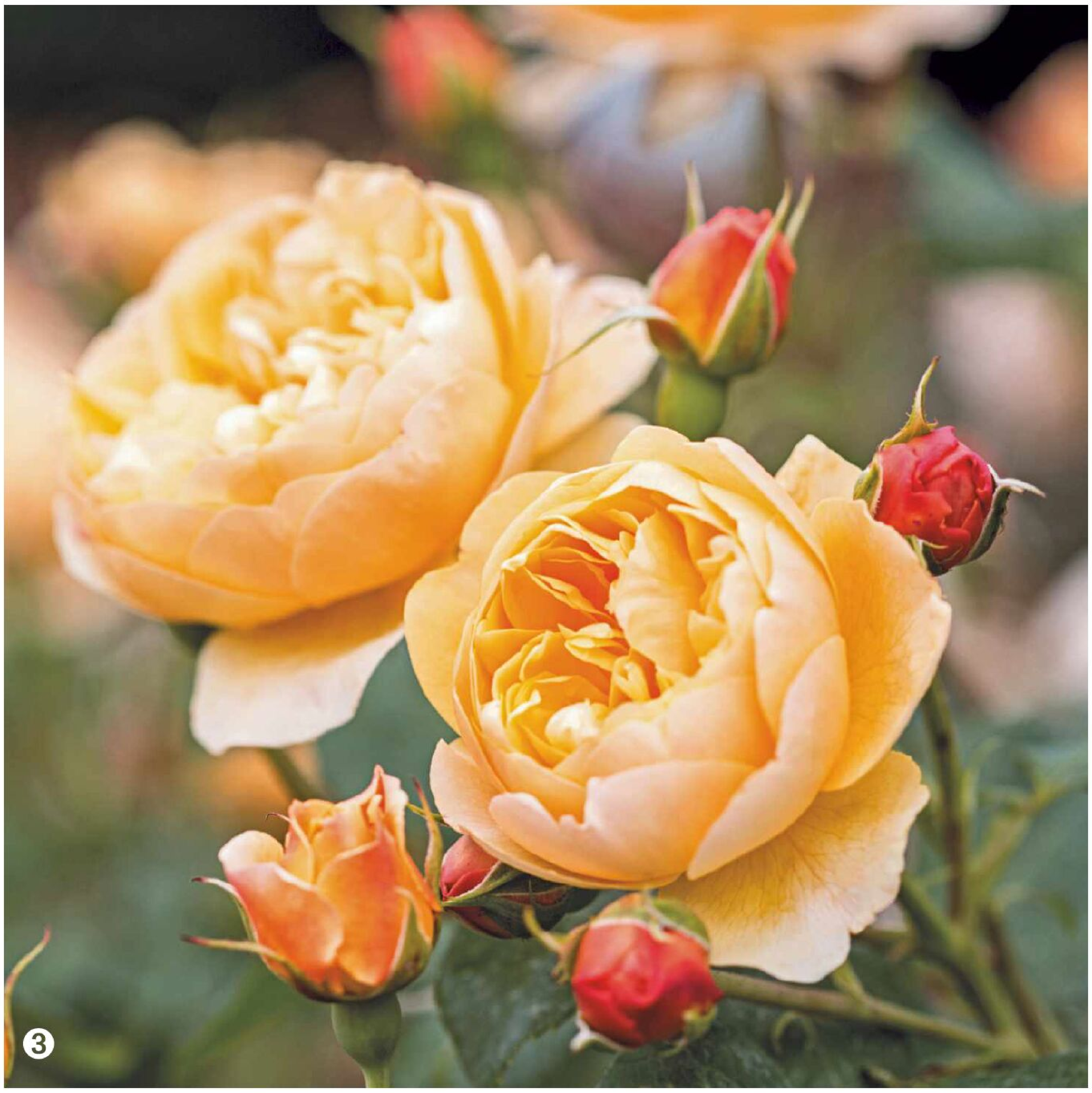
This spreading rose is covered in attractive white and yellow-eyed scented flowers that are set off by its glossy foliage. *Rosa* 'Partridge' flowers only once but blooms over a long period. Ideal for attracting bees.

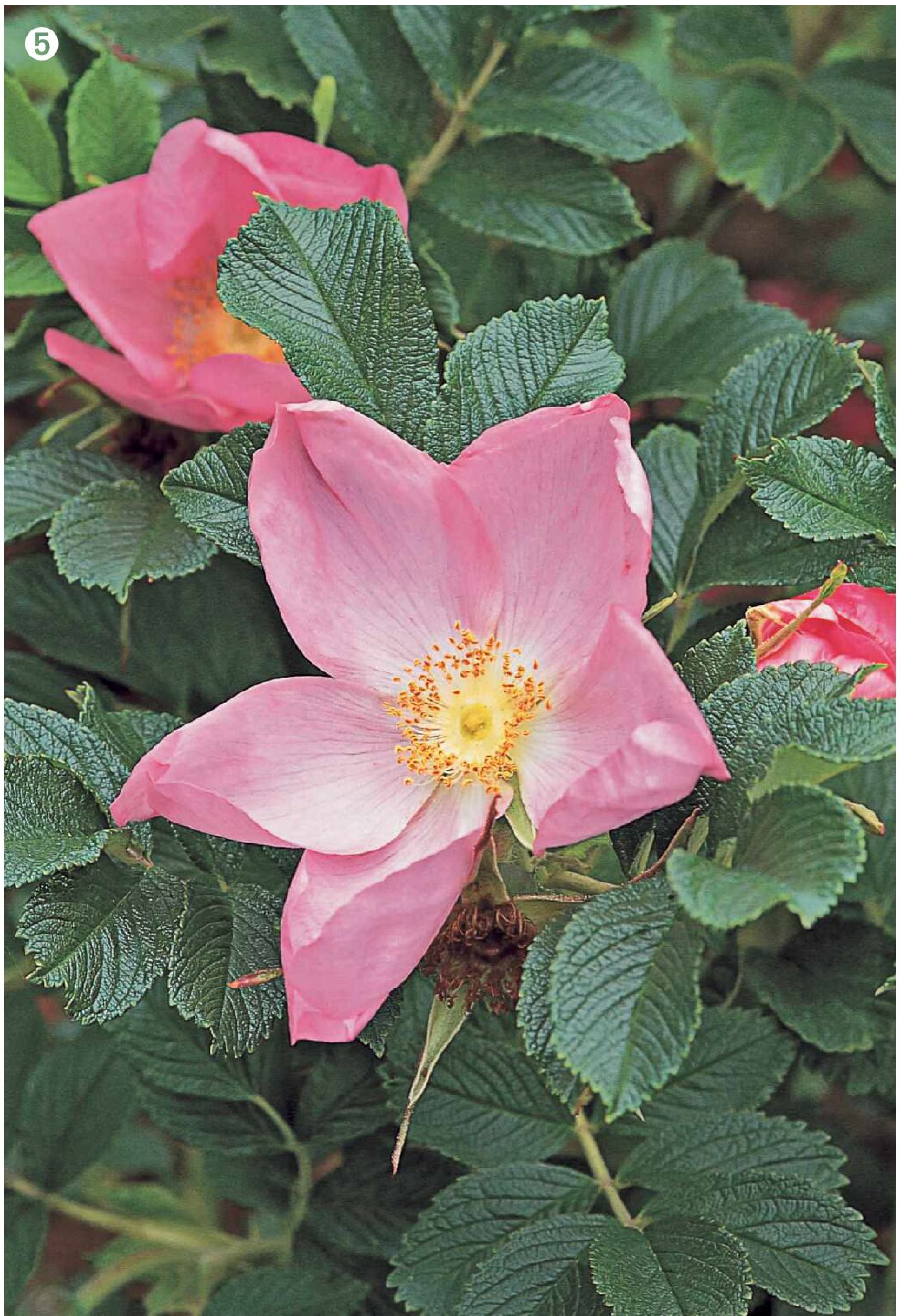
Flowers July to August
H x S 30cm x 3m

5 FOOLPROOF ROSES FOR

Exposed sites

Ideally, it's best not to plant roses in windy, exposed sites, but roses are tough plants and if you choose the right varieties, there are some that can cope in tricky locations. Look for ones that are strong growers, not too tall and with small flowers. Cutting roses back in autumn will also help to avoid windrock, which will disturb the roots. *Rosa rugosa* cultivars are good survivors in tough positions as they grow in dense, compact clumps and aren't as affected by the wind as taller, more spindly varieties.





❶ *R.* 'Ballerina'

A reliable, compact shrub rose that is free-flowering throughout the summer, bearing clusters of small pink and white blooms. It's vigorous and will cope in tough conditions.

Flowers July to September
Height x Spread 1.2m x 1.2m

❷ *R.* 'Harlow Carr'

This shrub variety is an English rose that is covered in fragrant rose-pink flowers all summer long. It has a rounded shape that makes it less vulnerable to strong winds.

Flowers June to October
H x S 1m x 1m

❸ *R.* 'Roald Dahl'

This striking apricot-coloured rose with a tea fragrance was so-named to celebrate the centenary of Roald Dahl's birth. It has a rounded, bushy habit and produces strong flowers that can tolerate bad weather.

Flowers June to October
H x S 1.2m x 1m

❹ *R. rugosa* 'Alba'

Perfect for coastal and exposed sites, rugosa roses are hardy roses that thrive even in exposed spots. 'Alba' has fragrant single white flowers, followed by red or purple hips in autumn. Its rich green foliage turns yellow in autumn.

Flowers June to September
H x S 1.8m x 1.8m

❺ *R.* 'Fru Dagmar Hastrup'

Rugosa roses are good for exposed sites, and 'Fru Dagmar Hastrup' is a sturdy, attractive and compact variety, with single pink flowers and striking red hips in autumn. Likes moist but well-drained soil.

Flowers June to September
H x S 1m x 1.2m

Deadhead roses to encourage more blooms

Rose know-how

Discover how to get the best flowering display from your roses with our guide to looking after them. This section is full of advice on everything from buying and planting to pest control and pruning

Planting & buying roses

How to plant roses is the subject of much discussion among gardeners. One thing that's agreed is roses need some sunshine and deep, rich, moisture-retentive soil – they prefer heavy-ish conditions, including well-improved clay. That's why old traditional rose growers had nurseries in places where the soil is clay loam. You can still grow good roses even if you have light or 'problem' soil – just add plenty of stodgy, well-rotted compost or manure, or choose roses more tolerant of lighter soils.

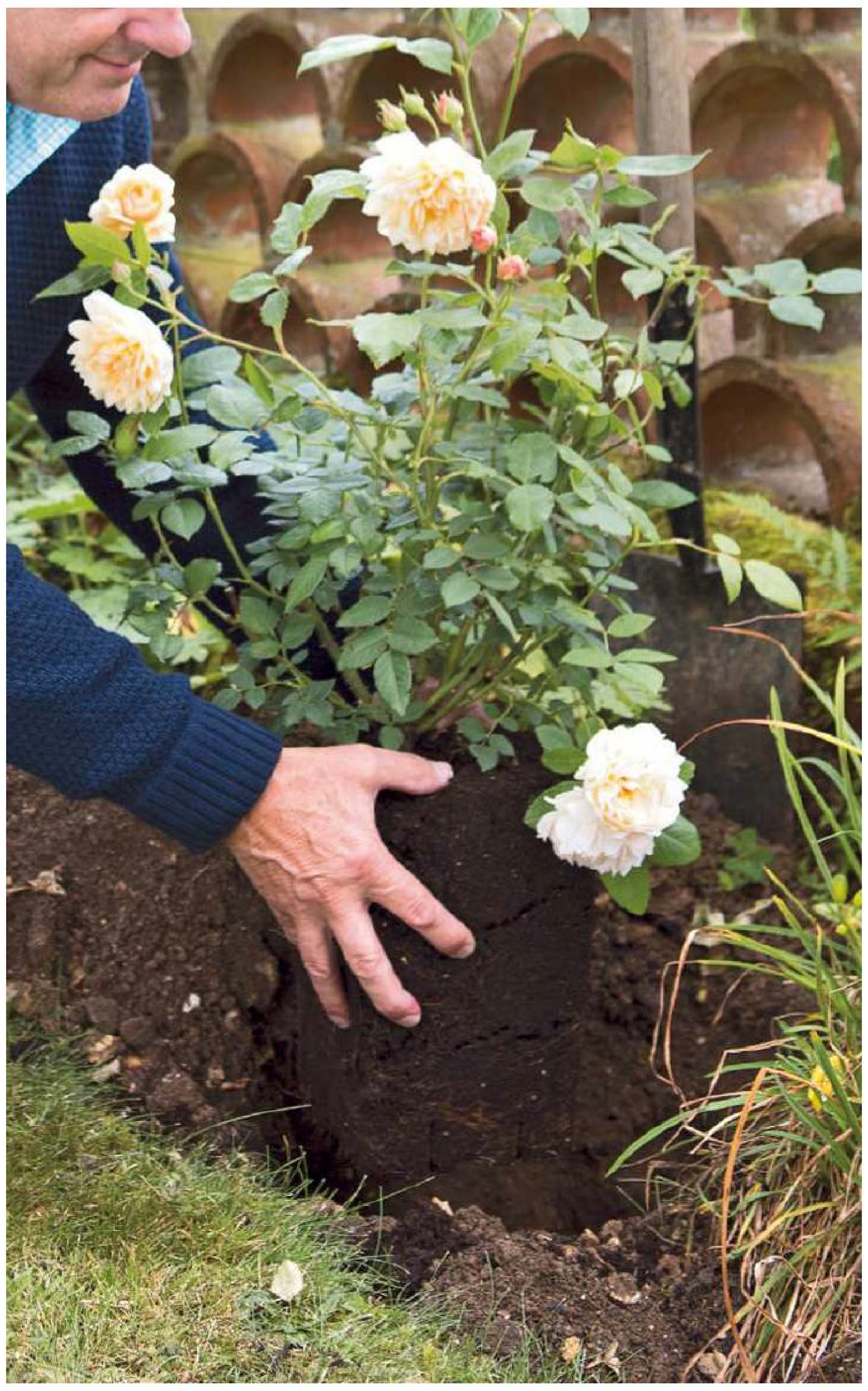
Where some people go wrong is shoe-horning roses into a tiny planting hole and cramping the roots. Think big – dig a hole twice the size of the rootball of a container-grown rose, and twice the width and depth of the roots of a bare-root rose. Work plenty of well-rotted organic matter into the base of the hole, then mix more into the soil you'll be using to fill in around the roots, along with some mycorrhizal fungi. See p28 and p40 for how to plant potted and bare-root roses.

When to plant

Late autumn is the best time for planting new roses as the soil is just right – still warmish, moist and aerated. If you can't do it before mid-winter really kicks in and the soil is at its coldest and wettest, then wait until late February to mid-March. The only time you can buy bare-root roses is between late autumn and early spring. Containerised or container grown roses are available all year round and can be planted at any time.

Bare root or container

If you can't decide which type of rose to buy, have a look at the pros and cons for each type. The main restriction with bare-root roses is that you can only plant them during the dormant season and then only when the soil is not frozen.



Bare root

These plants have been grown in fields at rose nurseries. Most are lifted in autumn and cold-stored for dispatch between autumn and spring. Bare-root roses often establish better and faster, and you get a wider choice of varieties. Just make sure you plant them as soon as possible so the roots don't dry out.

✓ Wider root system than roses in pots, and the roots head out into the surrounding soil staight away, so the plants get off to a better and quicker start.

✓ There are more varieties available as bare-root than those in pots. It can be the only way to buy new or unusual types.

✓ On average, bare-root roses cost 25 per cent less than the same varieties bought in containers.

✗ They need prompt planting or heeling in so roots don't dry out. They are only available from late autumn to early spring.

In containers

Containerised roses are bare-root plants that have been potted to keep the roots moist – the widest range is available from late autumn through to spring. The best container-grown roses are those that have been in their pot long enough to fill it with roots.

✓ Containerised and container-grown roses will survive in their pots until you're ready to plant them with less danger of roots drying out.

✓ They can be bought and planted at any time of the year, even in high summer when they're in full flower.

✗ The roots can be slow to grow out of the rootball into the surrounding soil, resulting in poor establishment.

✗ Containerised and container-grown roses need lots of water, especially if planted in the growing season.

How do I choose the best rose?

When buying a rose, opt for a good-sized plant in at least a 3-litre pot. The plant should be robust, with pencil-thick stems, and be free of disease and insects. Choose one with a good shape that has been properly pruned and doesn't appear dry.

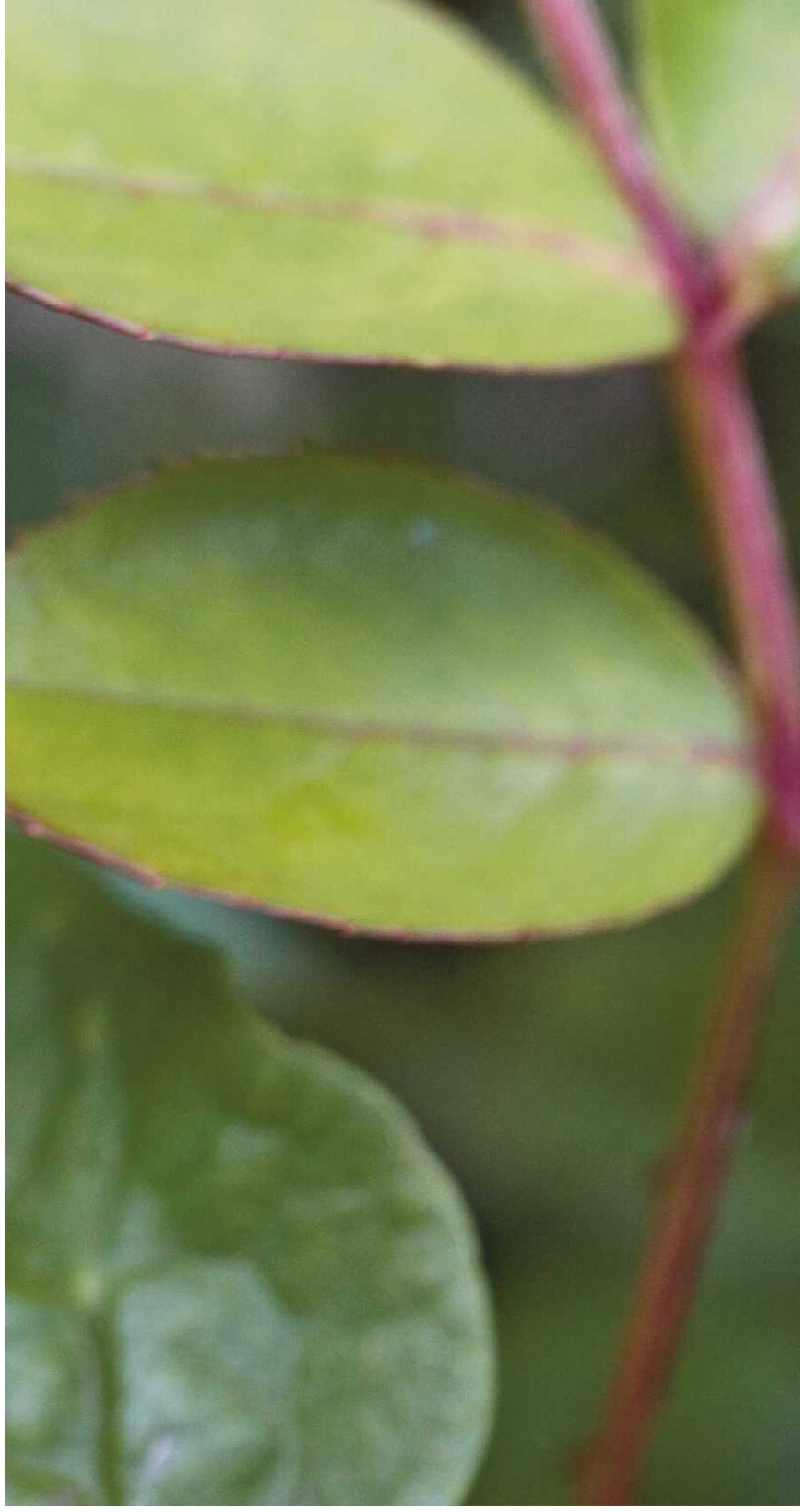
How long can roses live?

They can survive for many years – and species roses and ramblers tend to last the longest. The oldest in the world is believed to be the 'Thousand-Year Rose' growing on the wall of Hildesheim Cathedral in Germany and is around 700 years old.

What if I can't plant immediately?

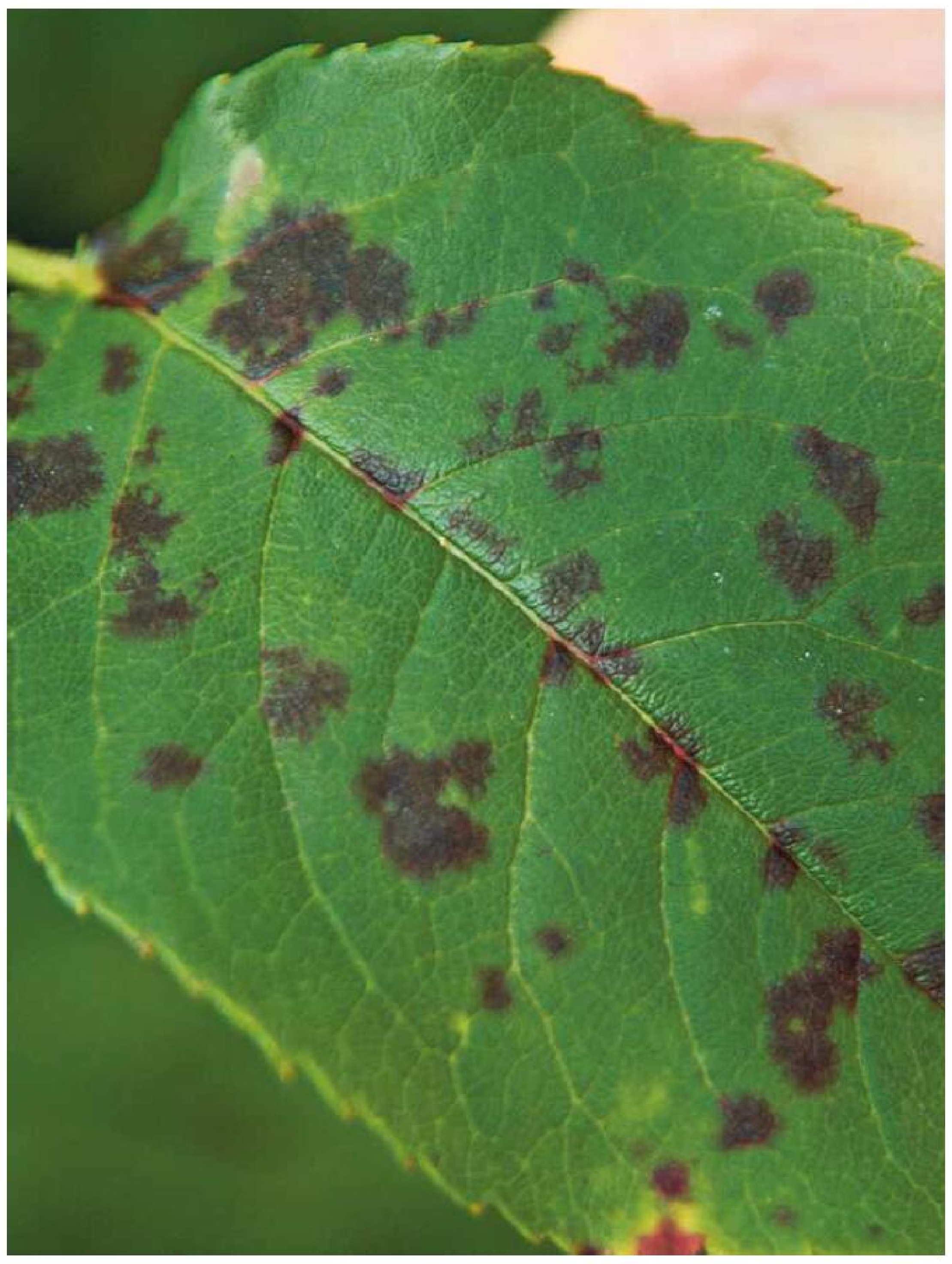
Plant a bare root rose temporarily using the 'heeling in' process. Dig a hole large enough to take the roots, piling the soil to one side. Lay the plant against one side of the hole at a 45° angle and backfill with soil to cover the roots. Firm the soil with your heel.

Pests & diseases

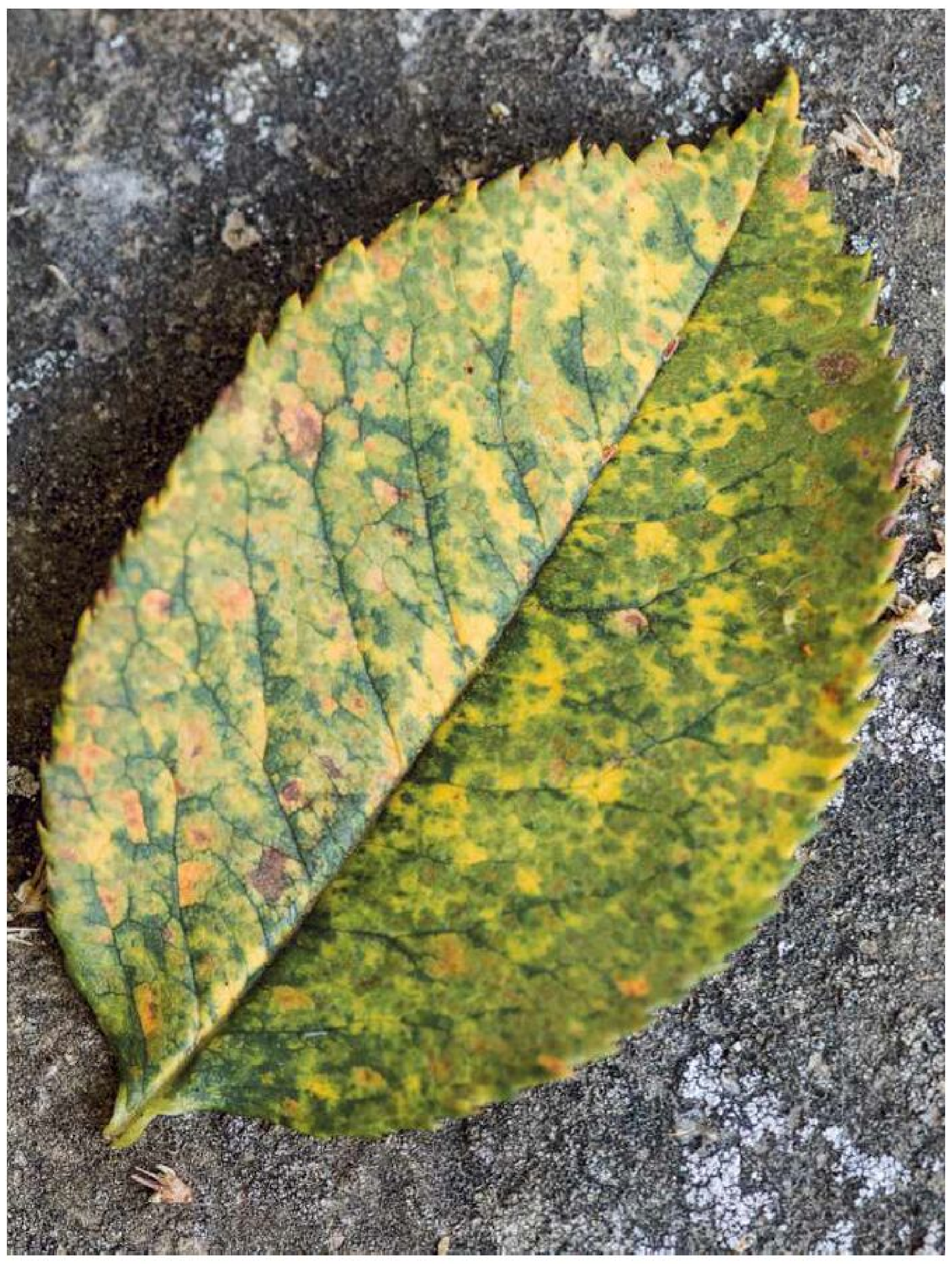


Discover how to tackle some of the most common rose pests and diseases. If you already have roses growing, these are some of the problems you might come across. If you haven't bought any roses yet, there are some that are more resistant to disease than others. 'Buxom Beauty' is a hybrid tea with good disease resistance while shrub rose 'Princess Anne' and rugosa rose 'Hansa' are very healthy. Choosing a healthy rose to start with will make growing a lot easier because if a variety of rose is prone to disease it will always succumb to it eventually.

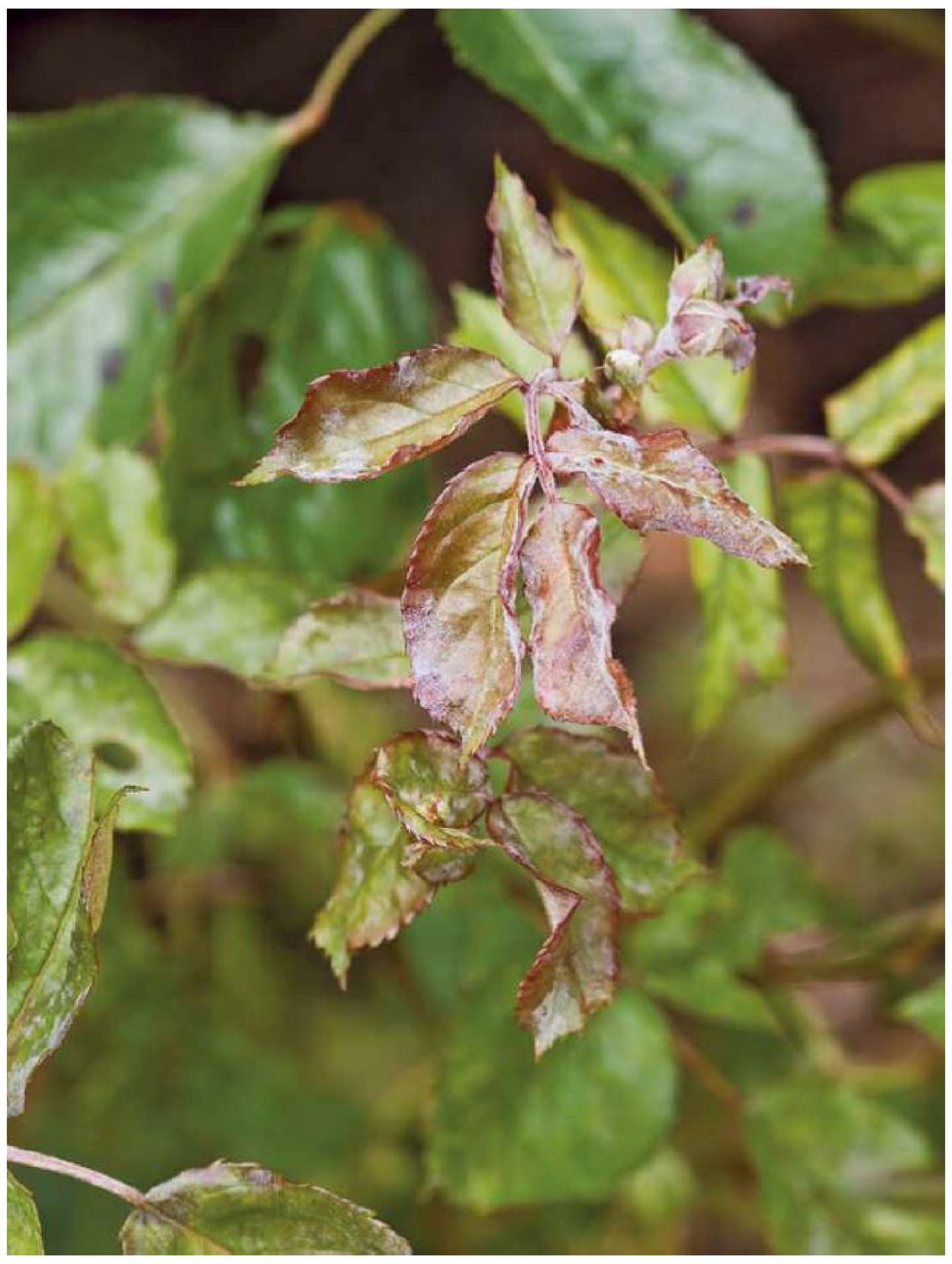
As a rule of thumb, the thicker and more glossy the foliage, the more disease-resistant the rose will be. Conserving moisture by watering and mulching will help prevent mildew and black spot, which are more likely when roots are searching for water.



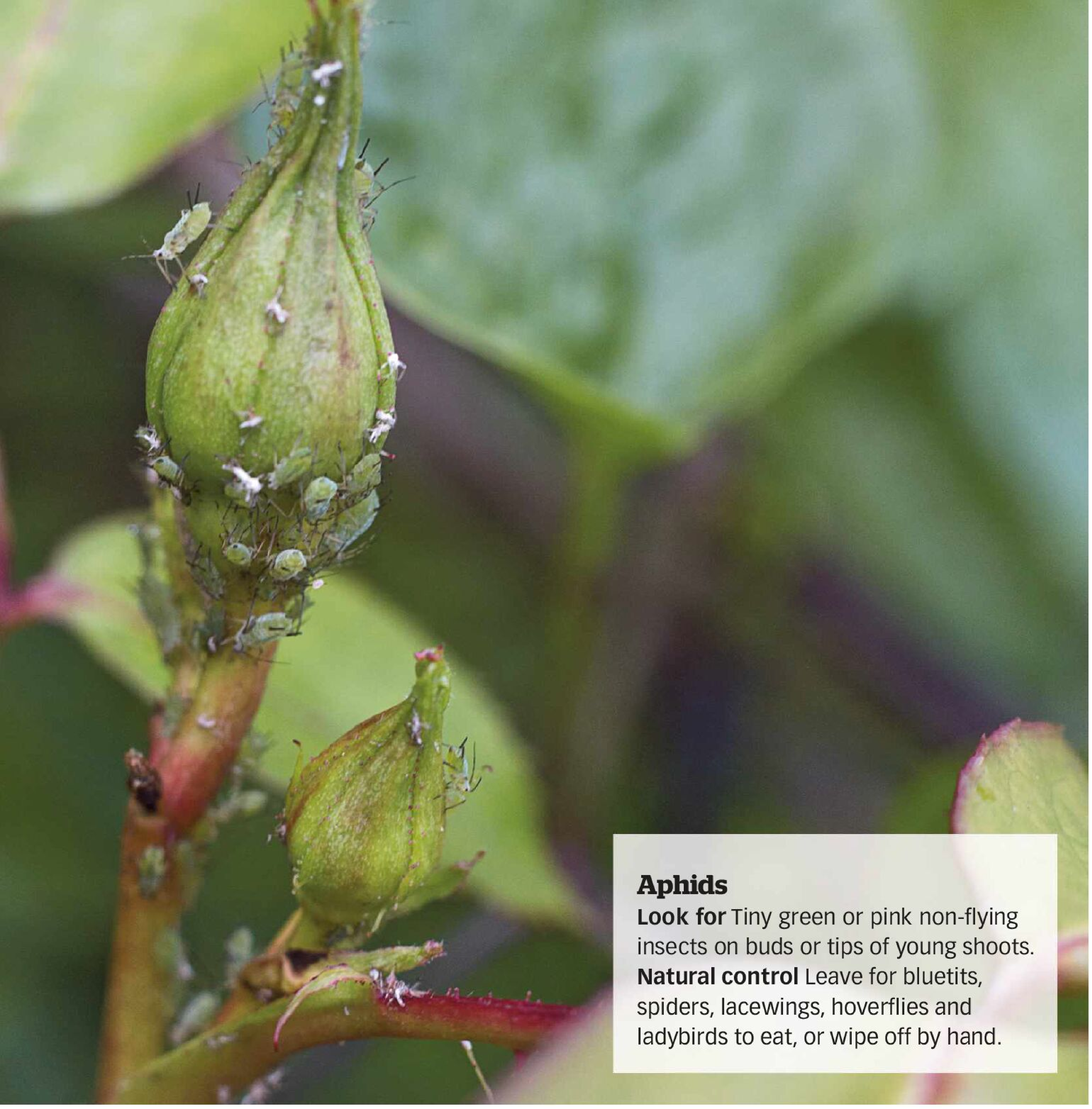
Black spot
Look for Small black blobs that can form larger patches. Badly affected leaves often fall off, and this can reduce a rose's flowering ability.
Natural control Pick off affected leaves as soon as you see them, collect fallen leaves and burn to avoid reinfection.



Rust
Look for Tiny orange dots on the undersides of leaves. Young shoots can die if affected and it can kill plants if they lose all leaves.
Natural control Feed plants with potash, pick off and burn affected leaves and prune out affected shoots, then burn them.

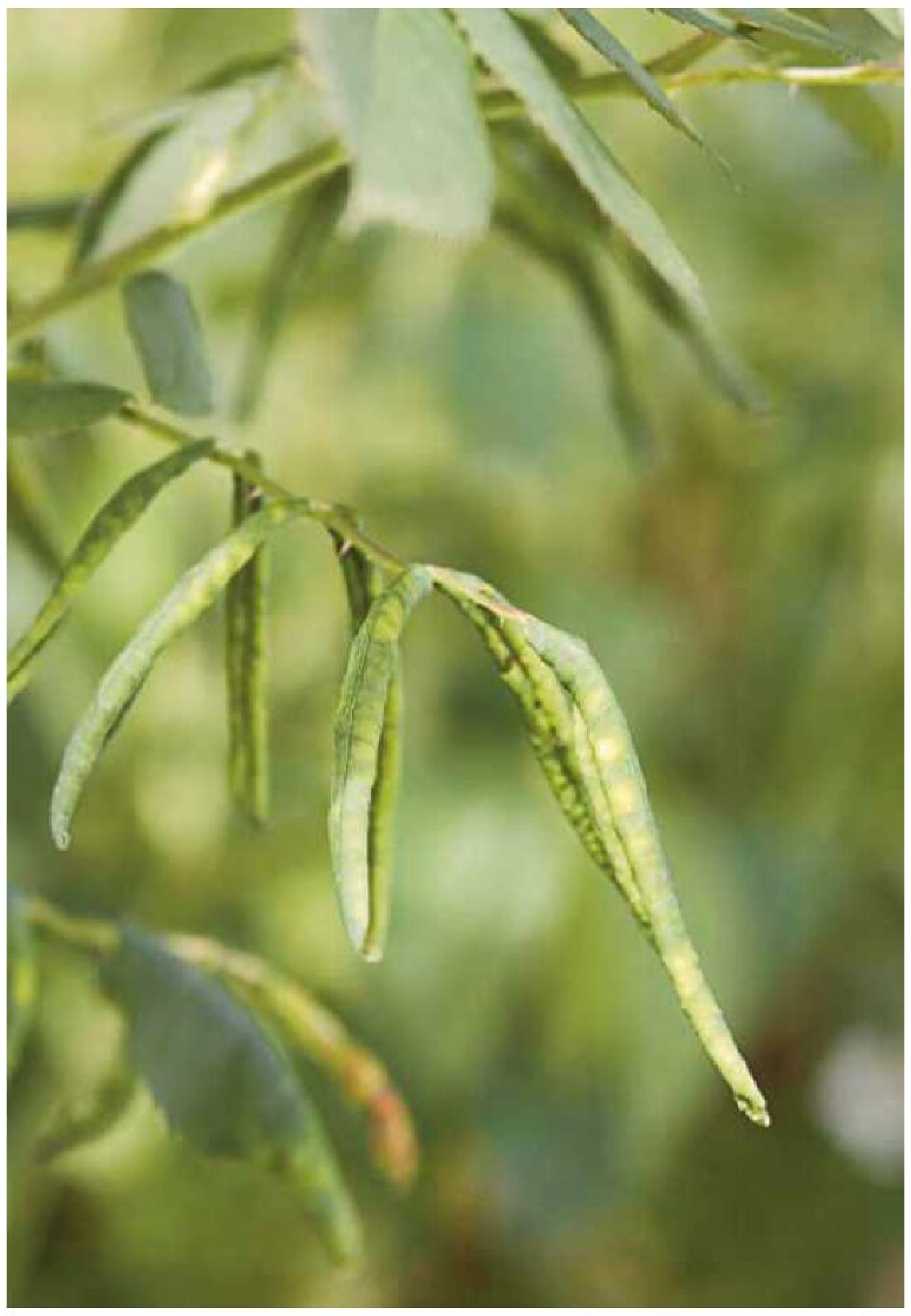


Mildew
Look for Patches of talcum-powder-like material on the tips of young shoots and buds.
Natural control Mildew can sometimes be wiped off with a damp cloth. Keep plants well fed with potash, and water regularly to avoid stress to plants during dry spells.



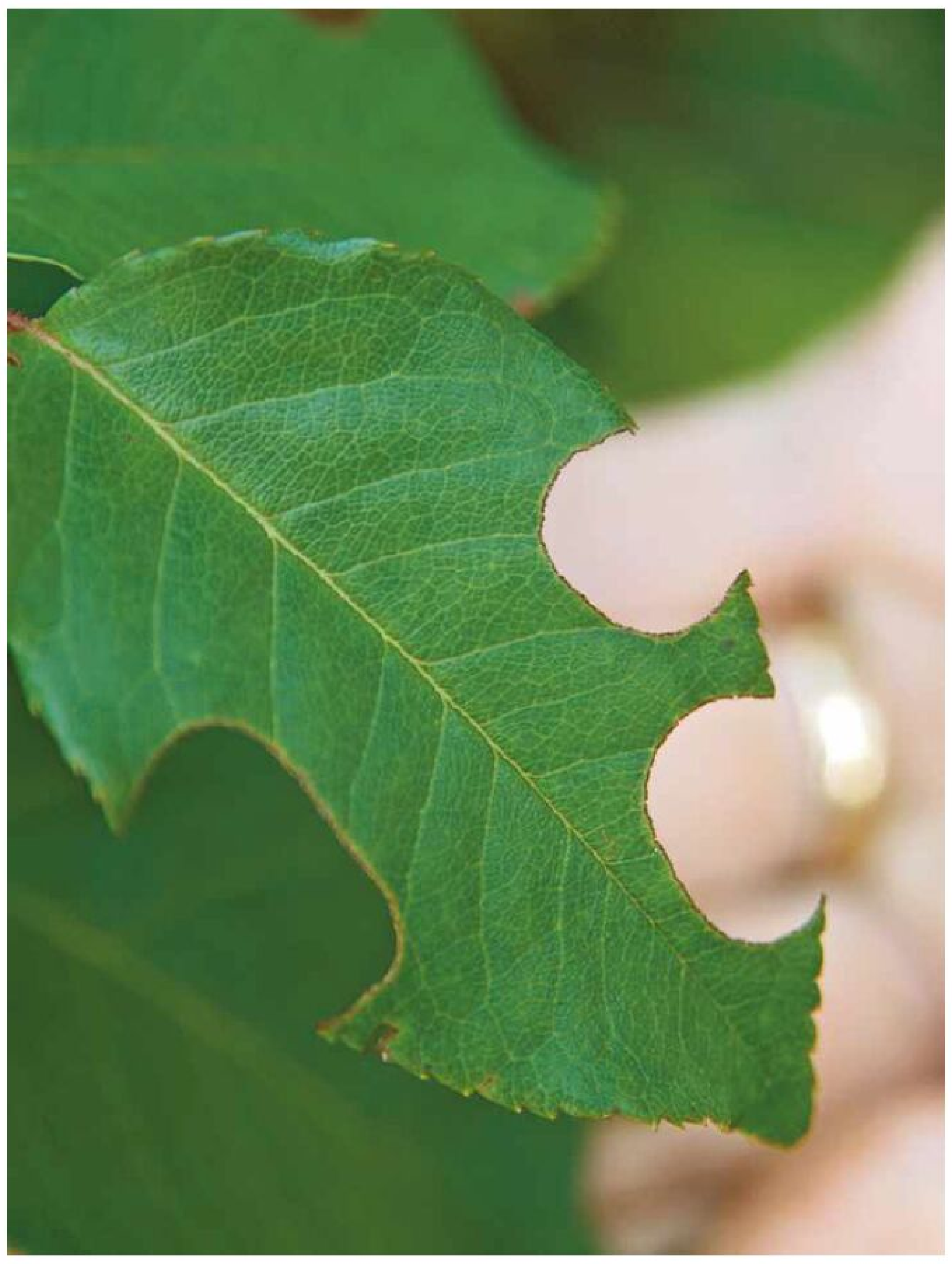
Aphids

Look for Tiny green or pink non-flying insects on buds or tips of young shoots.
Natural control Leave for bluetits, spiders, lacewings, hoverflies and ladybirds to eat, or wipe off by hand.



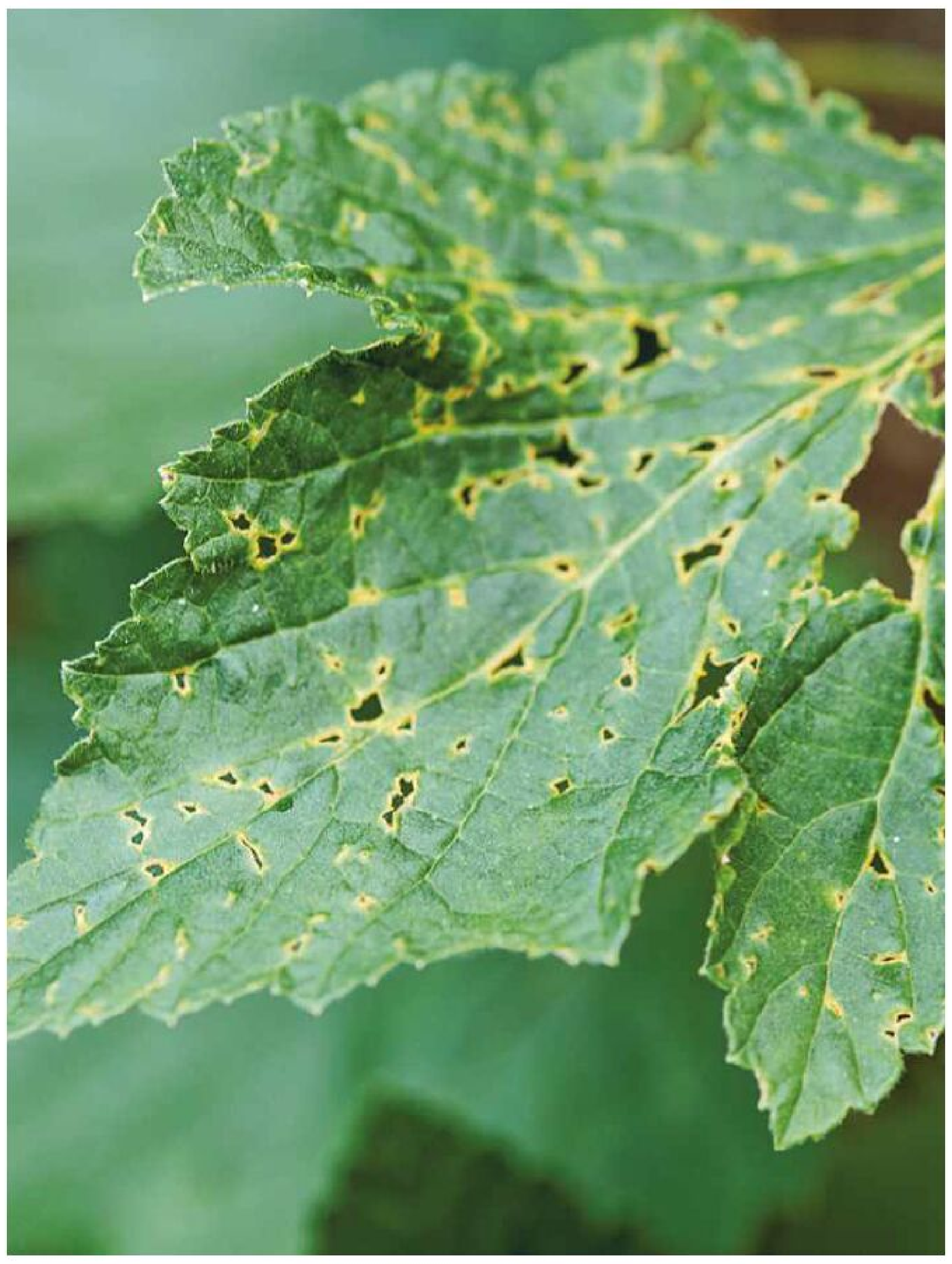
Leaf-rolling sawfly

Look for Rarely seen as either adults or larvae, but you will spot affected leaves – rolled into cylinders as a crèche for the tiny larvae inside.
Natural control Pick off the leaves if they offend you, otherwise ignore – they are not doing any harm. Hoe the soil shallowly in winter to expose the larvae to birds.



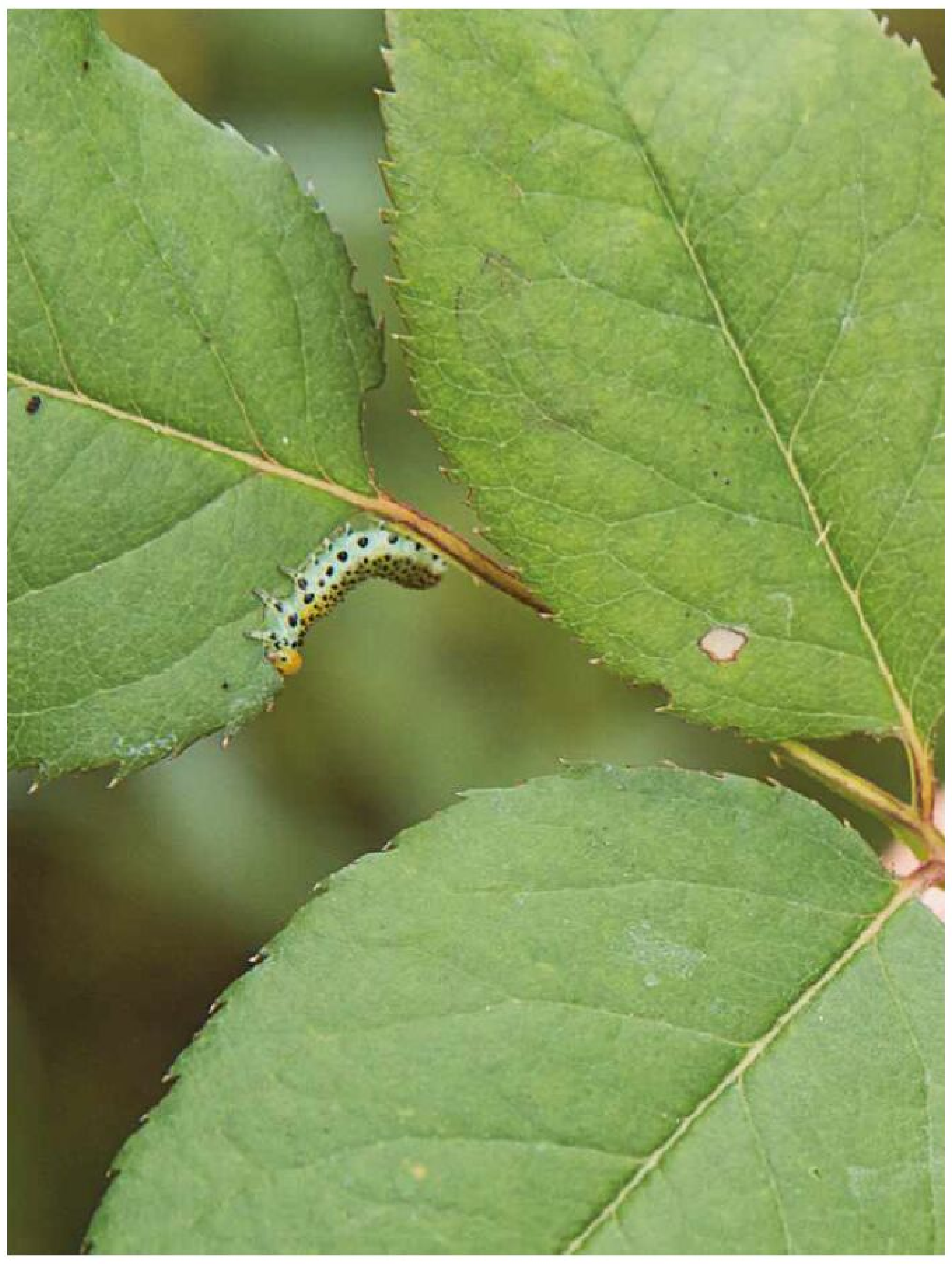
Leaf-cutting bee

Look for You rarely see the culprit, only the results of their work. They take semi-circular 'bites' out of leaf edges, then they use the leaf discs for nest building.
Natural control No action is needed – it does no harm to plants and won't affect flowering.



Capsid bug

Look for A green grasshopper-like insect that sucks sap from buds and leaves. The resultant puncture marks heal to a scab that distorts growth and/or leaves brown marks.
Natural control Rarely serious. Pick off the insects and re-home them in a hedge.



Large rose sawfly

Look for A small caterpillar-like bug feeding on the undersides of leaves, which creates dead areas that can affect photosynthesis and reduce the vigour of the plant.
Natural control Remove by hand or leave them for birds to eat.

Prune shrub roses such as 'Bonica' in late winter to early spring

FOCUS ON

Pruning

Although cutting back roses can seem complicated because of the many different types, they are some of the easiest plants to prune. They are also a good plant on which to practise your techniques because they are forgiving.

February is a good month for routine pruning of all roses except ramblers, and the basics are the same. Cutting back hard will promote the strongest growth, while light pruning will result in less vigour.

The other rules of thumb are to cut to an outward-facing bud and to remove any closely positioned stems that might rub or compete for space. Also remove the stubby 'snags' (short, dead lengths of stem with no growth on them) and thin, twiggy stems that are unlikely to produce anything worthwhile in terms of growth and flower. It is then a matter of applying specific techniques to the type of rose you are growing.

WHEN TO PRUNE	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
BUSH ROSES		🟪	🟪									
RAMBLING ROSES								🟧	🟧			
CLIMBING ROSES	🟨	🟨										🟨
SHRUB ROSES	🟪	🟪	🟪									
FLOWERS						🟥	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟥	🟥	
LEAVES				🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩	🟩
HIPS	🟦	🟦							🟦	🟦	🟦	🟦

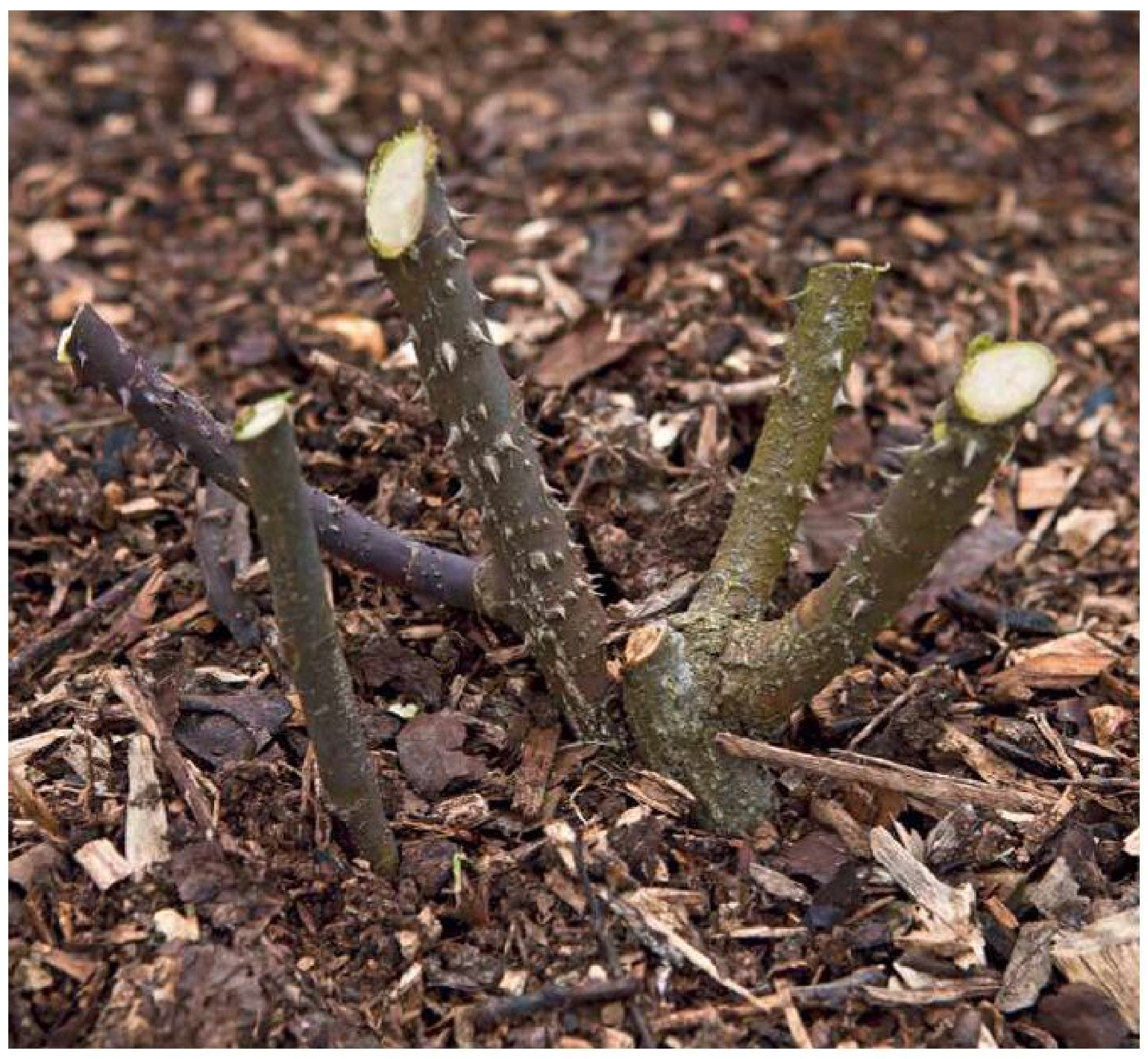
Prune floribunda roses such as 'York Minster' down to six buds from the base

Bush roses

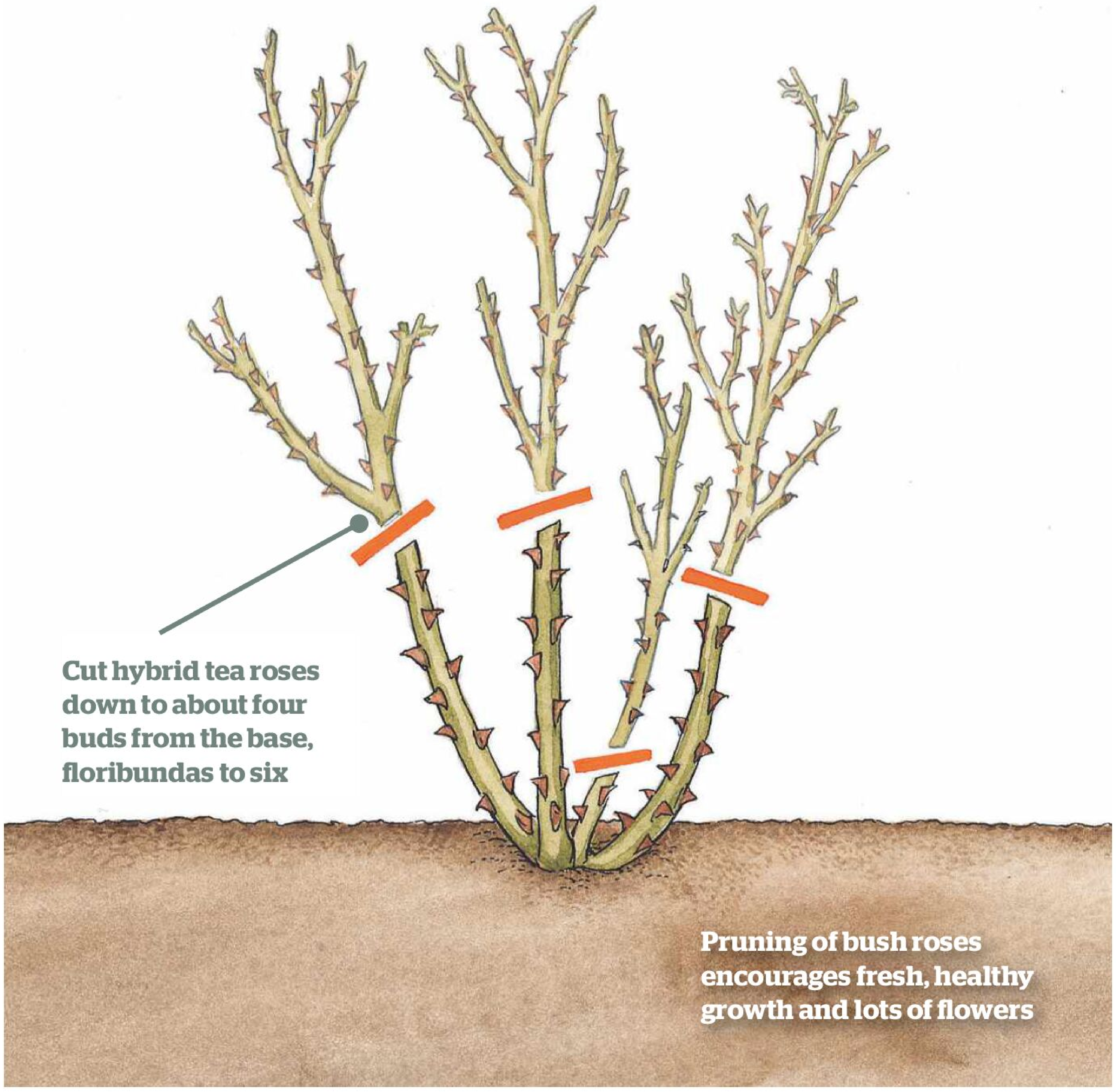
These include floribunda and hybrid tea roses, and have been bred for their ability to flower freely on strong new growth made during the current growing season. This means that they can be cut down hard every year to keep the plants compact. Patio roses are shorter-growing forms of bush roses. Meanwhile, miniature roses simply need to be encouraged to produce thicker stems that will be topped with blooms, while any thin, unproductive twigs should be removed completely.

How to prune bush roses

1 Look for any dead or crossing branches and old wood. Remove these, cutting back to the base of the plant.



2 Prune the youngest stems down to four buds from the base on hybrid teas and six on floribundas – see diagram right.


Cut hybrid tea roses down to about four buds from the base, floribundas to six

Pruning of bush roses encourages fresh, healthy growth and lots of flowers

Climbing roses

These generally produce three or four initial strong stems, up to 2m tall in a single season, and often bloom at the tip in the same year. In subsequent years these main stems send out sideshoots up to 90cm long, most of which will produce flowers in late May or June, and again in September. When pruning climbing roses you're aiming to encourage a regular supply of strong new shoots from the buds low down on the plant.

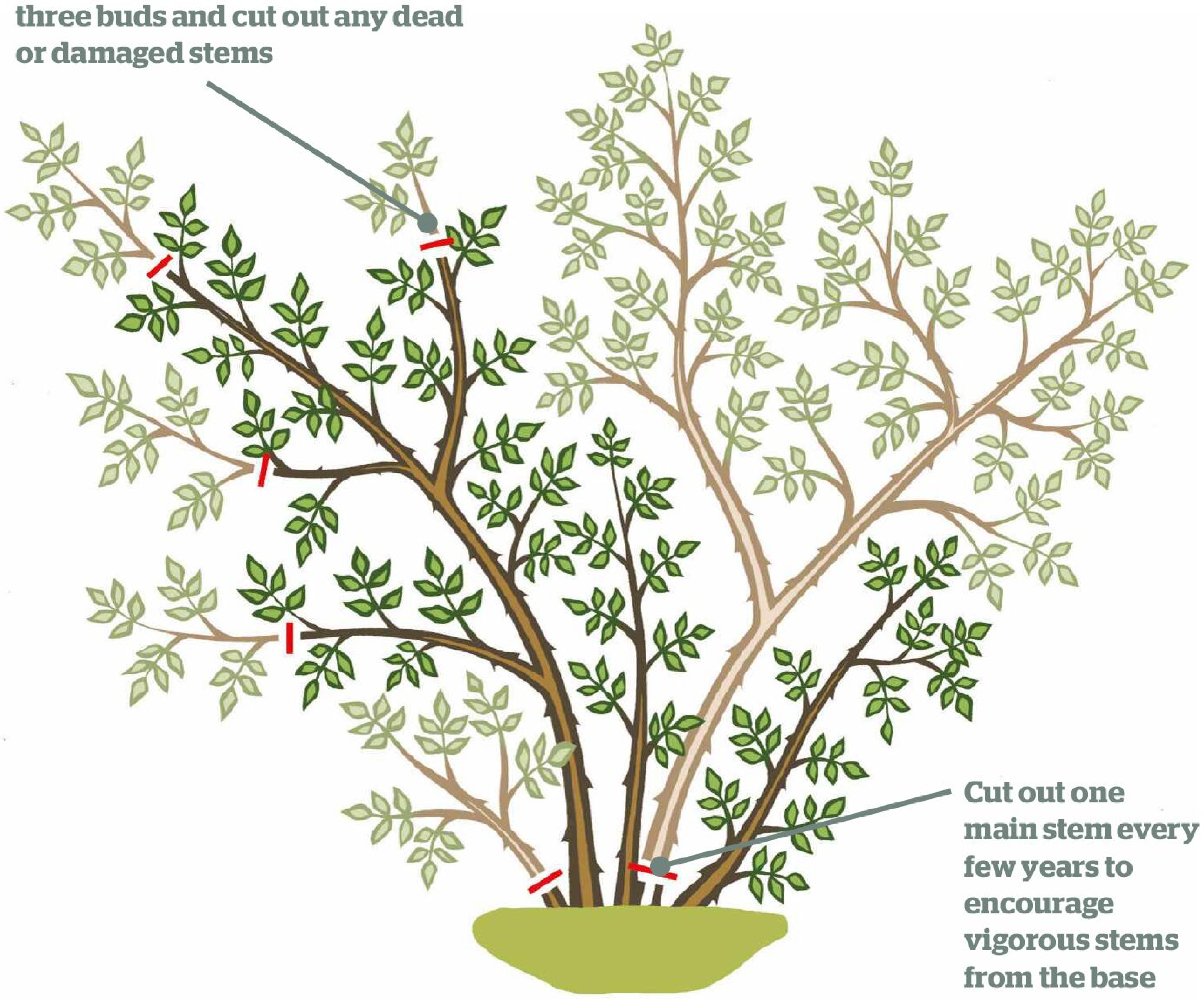
Prune sideshoots of climbing roses such as 'Wollerton Old Hall'

How to prune

Climbing roses are vigorous selections from the same breeding as bush roses, so once a main framework of stems has been trained across their support, the sideshoots can be cut back close to the main framework in winter. Remove one of the main stems every few years and prune the sideshoots annually in winter, cutting back to two or three buds from the base.

Best time to do it December to February.

Prune climbing roses in winter to stimulate healthy, new growth every spring



Trim sideshoots back to two or three buds and cut out any dead or damaged stems

Cut out one main stem every few years to encourage vigorous stems from the base

Ramblers

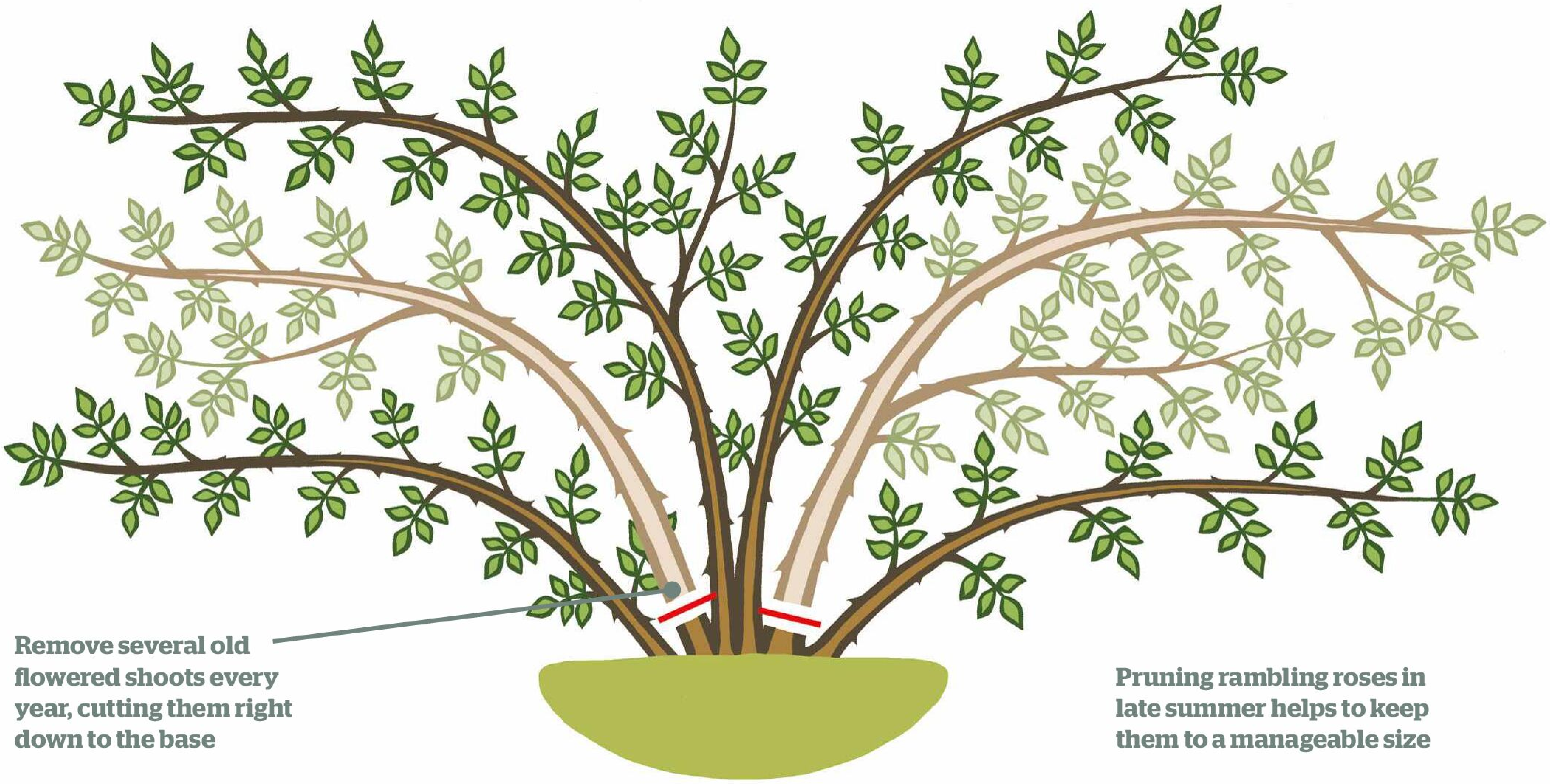
These can put on 5m of growth in a single year and produce one or two strong, fast-growing shoots from near the base of the plant every year. Given a free rein, the strongest stems will continue growing vigorously from their tips and get thicker at the base, with flowers limited to high sideshoots. Pruning helps restrict their growth and encourages an even spread of flowers.

Cut out the oldest flowered stems of ramblers such as 'Super Fairy'

How to prune

Rambling and species roses as well as groundcover varieties (some of which share parentage with ramblers and climbers) flower most freely on a framework of stems that were made in the previous couple of seasons. This means the oldest flowered stems are cut out each year to encourage regeneration of new shoots from the base and to stop them turning into a bird's nest of unproductive stems. You should also remove any scrappy shoots.

Best time to do it After the plants have flowered in late summer.



Remove several old flowered shoots every year, cutting them right down to the base

Pruning rambling roses in late summer helps to keep them to a manageable size

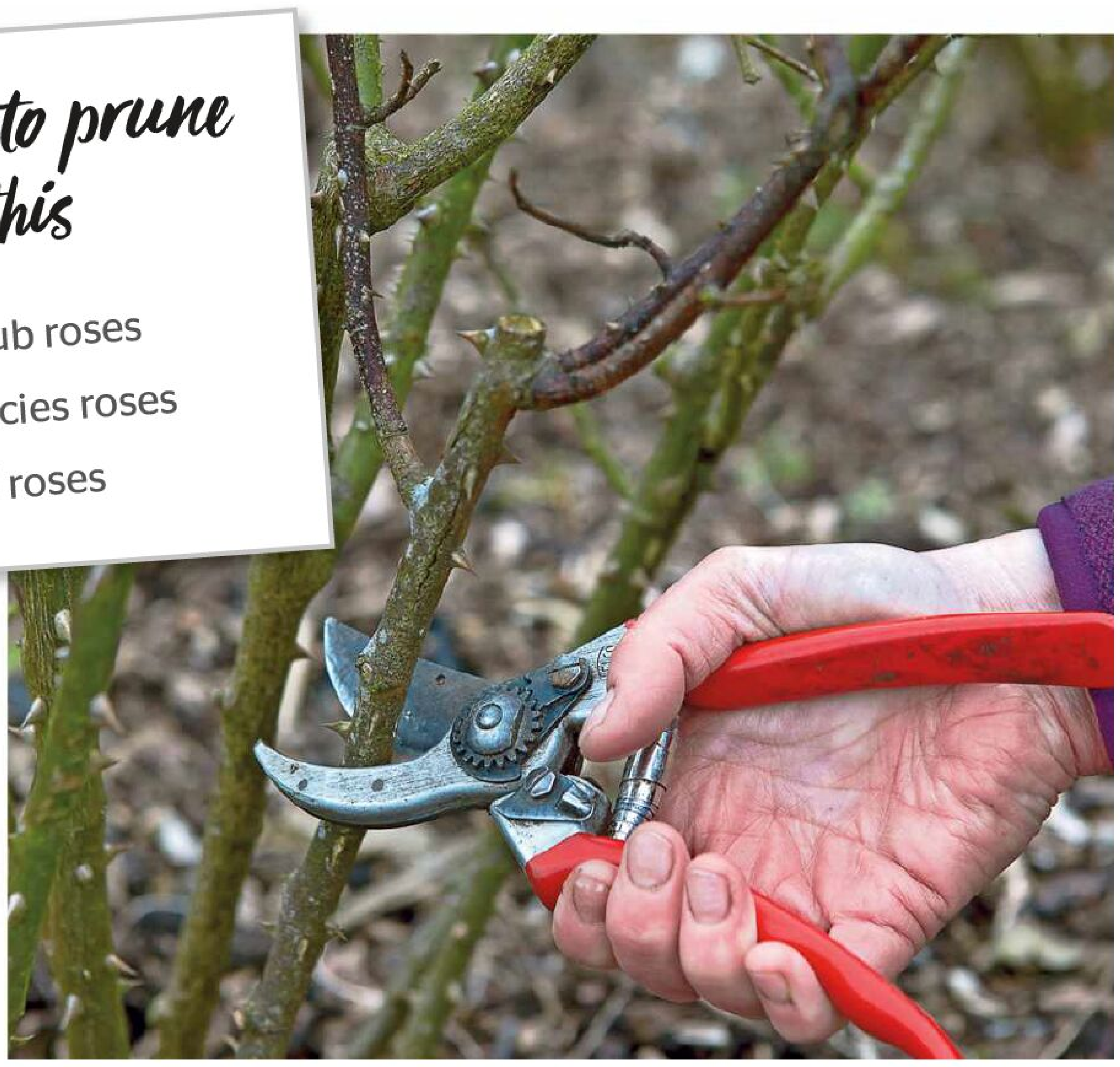
HOW TO

Prune a shrub rose

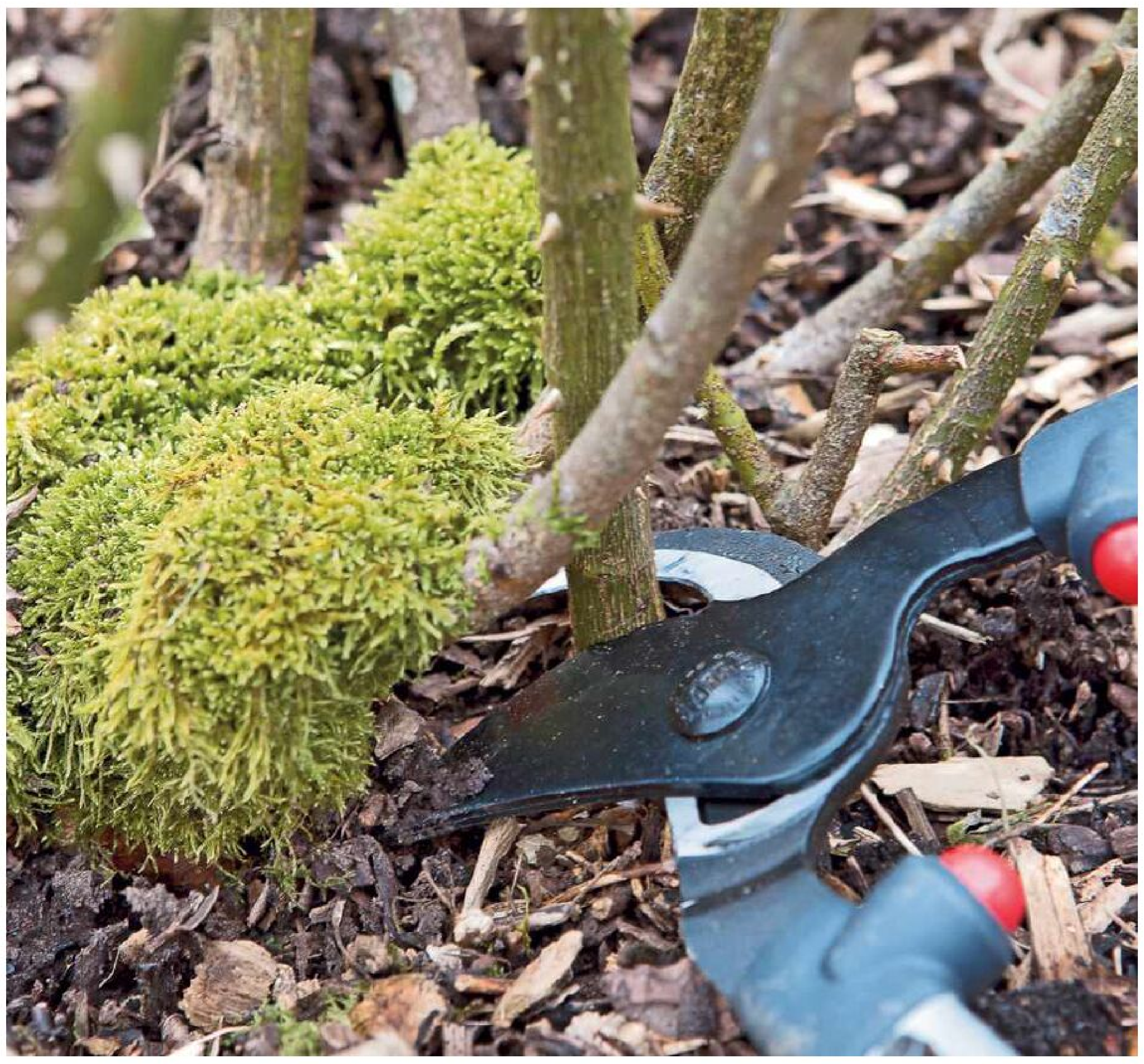
Shrub roses are large plants that are neither bush roses, nor climbers or ramblers. They have a naturally graceful shape, often with arching stems. Unlike bush roses, which are cut back hard in late winter/early spring, shrub roses are pruned more lightly at this time of year to keep the plant healthy, flowering well and a manageable size.

Roses to prune like this

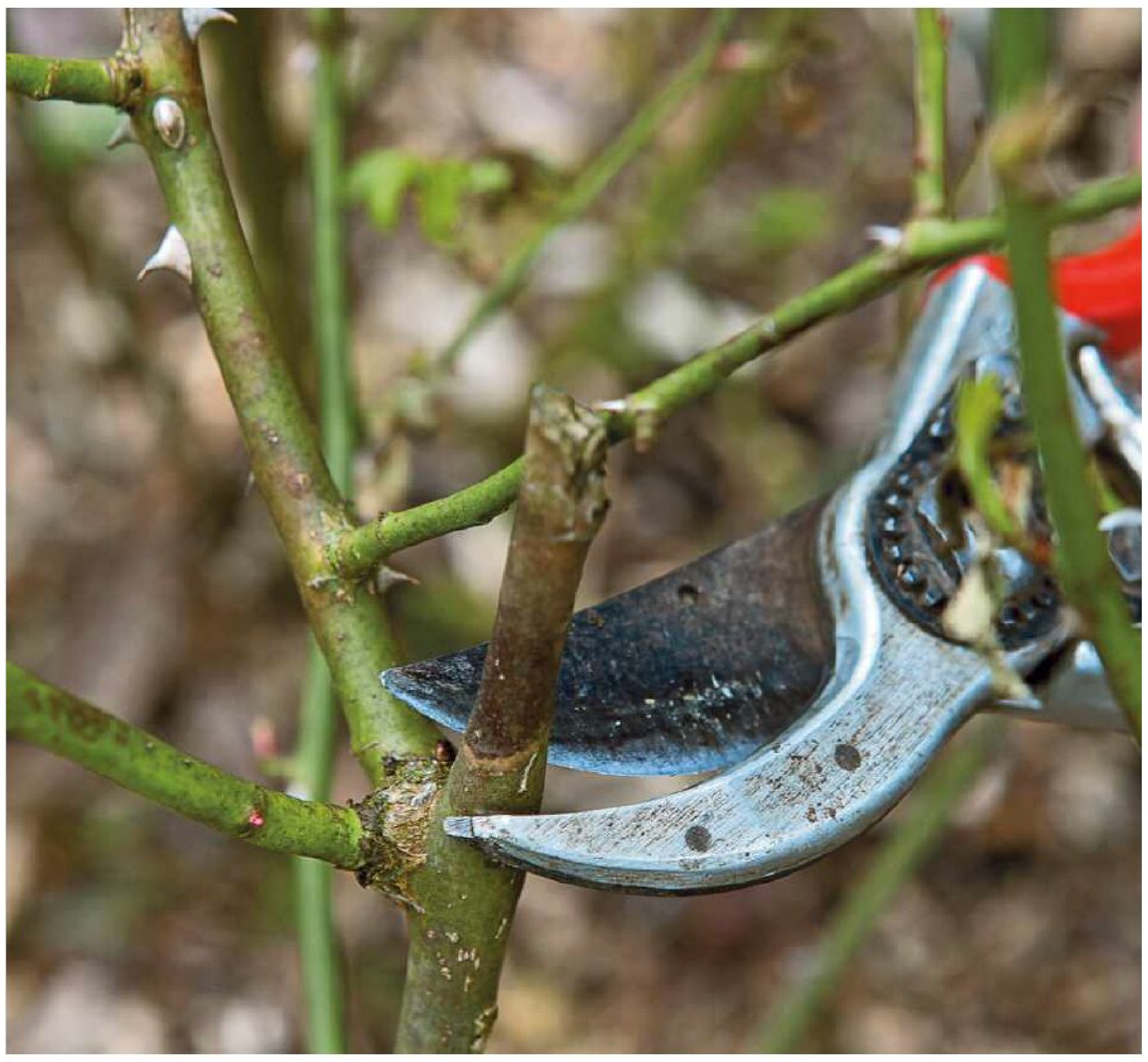
☐ Shrub roses
☐ Species roses
☐ Old roses



1 Examine your plant. Look for dead and rubbing stems – use secateurs to remove these and any that are diseased. Shorten a selection of older stems to thin them out.



2 Remove a couple of older stems with loppers to encourage new shoots that will flower the following summer. Cut as close to the ground as possible.



3 Check for old stubs where the stems were not fully cut back during the previous pruning. Remove with secateurs to stop die-back, which can run down the stem if left.

4 Reduce the remaining healthy main stems by up to a third and shorten strong sideshoots to two or three buds. Mulch the plant afterwards with well-rotted manure or bark.

'Harlow Carr' is a strongly fragrant, robust, shrub rose

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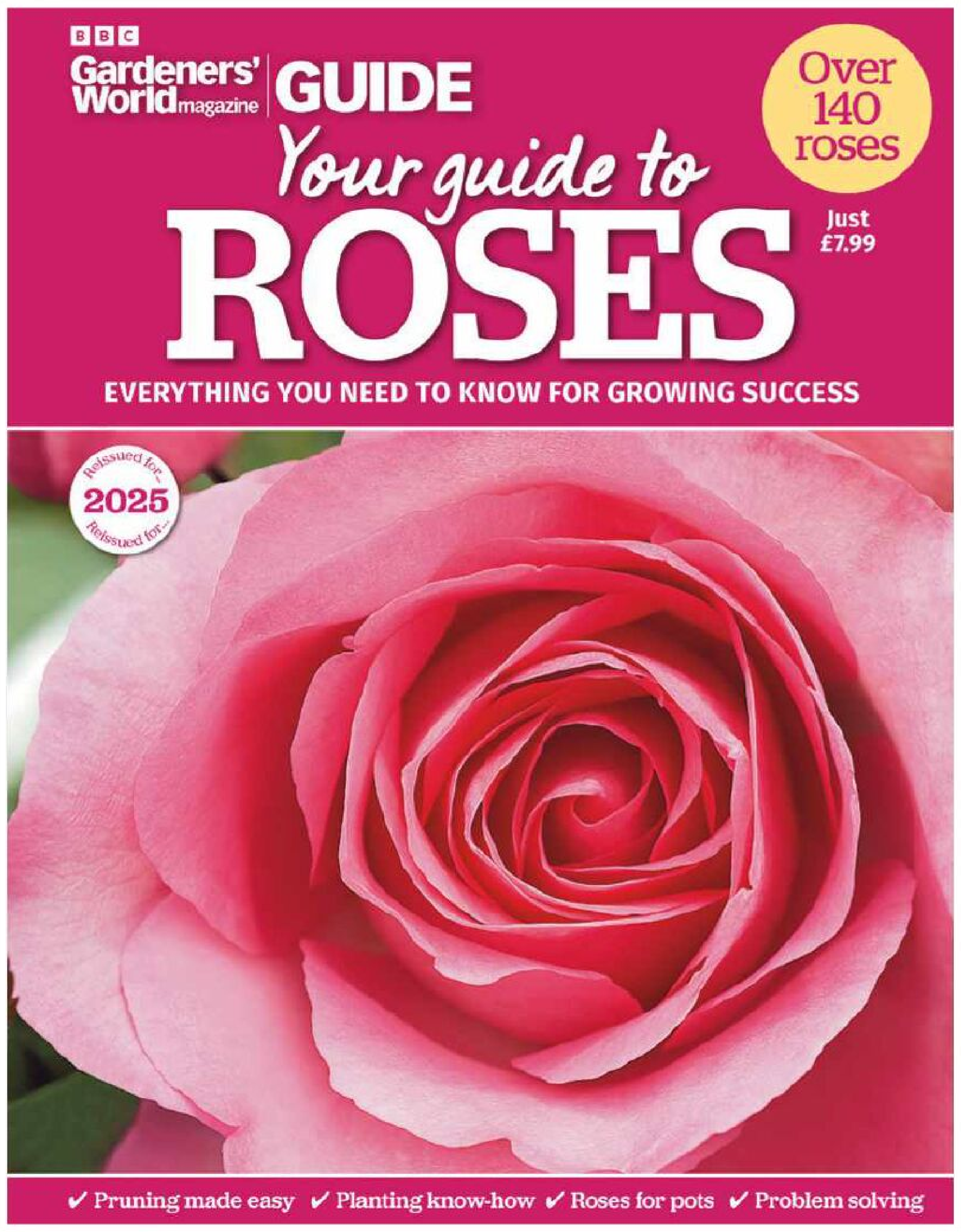

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Easy pruning jobs

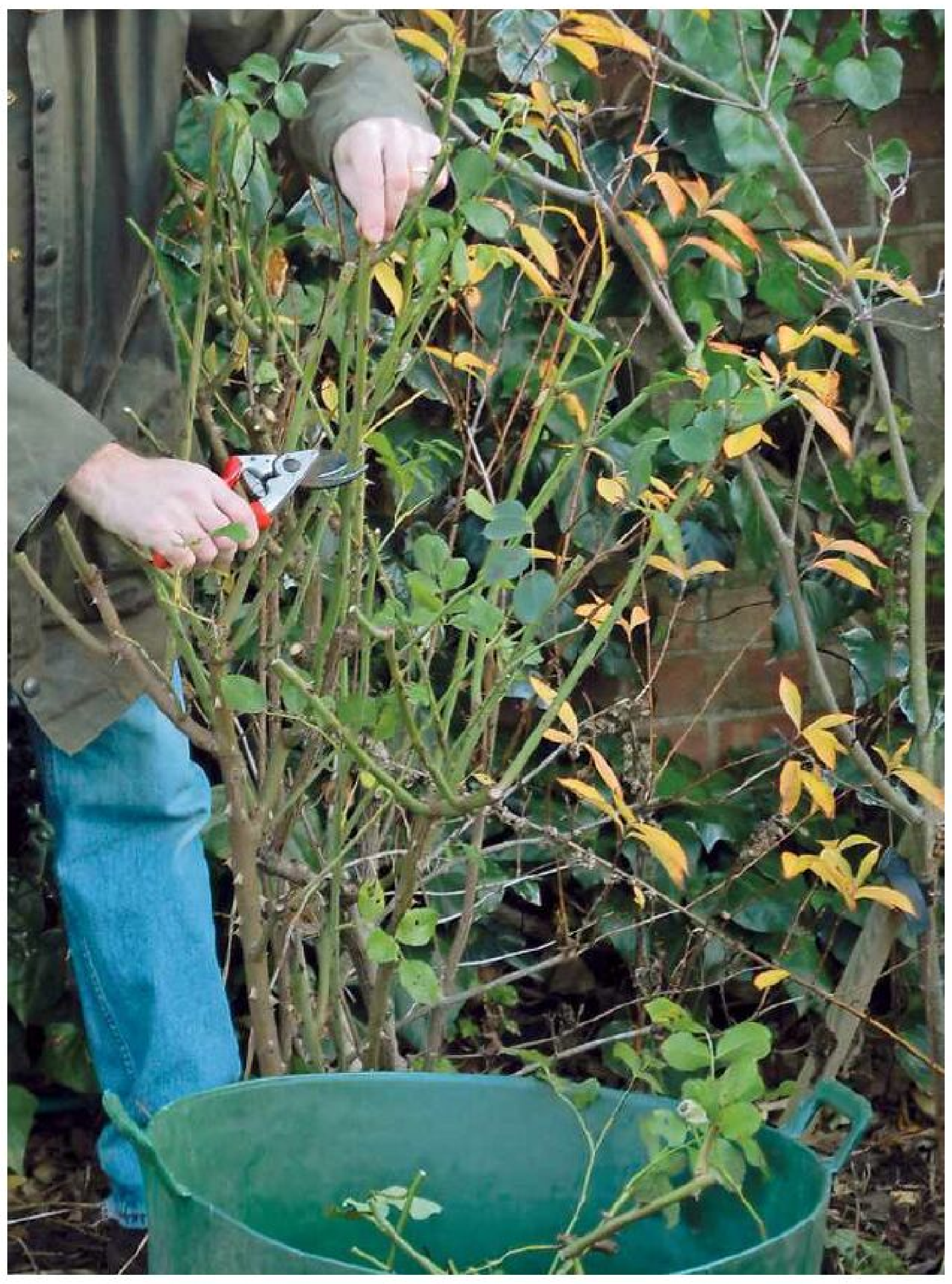
As well as the main pruning jobs on roses, there are a few quicker jobs that you can do in summer and autumn to keep them looking at their best. Deadheading is one of the easiest forms of pruning and no less important as it encourages a plant to keep flowering. Once a plant has bloomed, it diverts its energy into producing seeds rather than more flowers. Deadheading also keeps plants healthy. Faded flowers make a plant look tatty and after rain they can turn into a soggy mess. This can encourage fungal infections that may lead to stem die-back.

Deadhead cluster-flowered roses

Many roses bear flowers in clusters, including ramblers and floribundas. You can snip off each bloom as it fades, or wait until the cluster is spent and remove the stem, cutting back to the second set of leaves. This usually stimulates more blooms, but not all will repeat-flower.

Deadhead roses with single blooms

For roses that carry their flowers singly, such as hybrid teas, regular deadheading will encourage the production of further blooms. Simply snip off the faded flower and about 15cm of the stem, cutting just above a leaf. The next flower shoot will then sprout from that leaf joint.

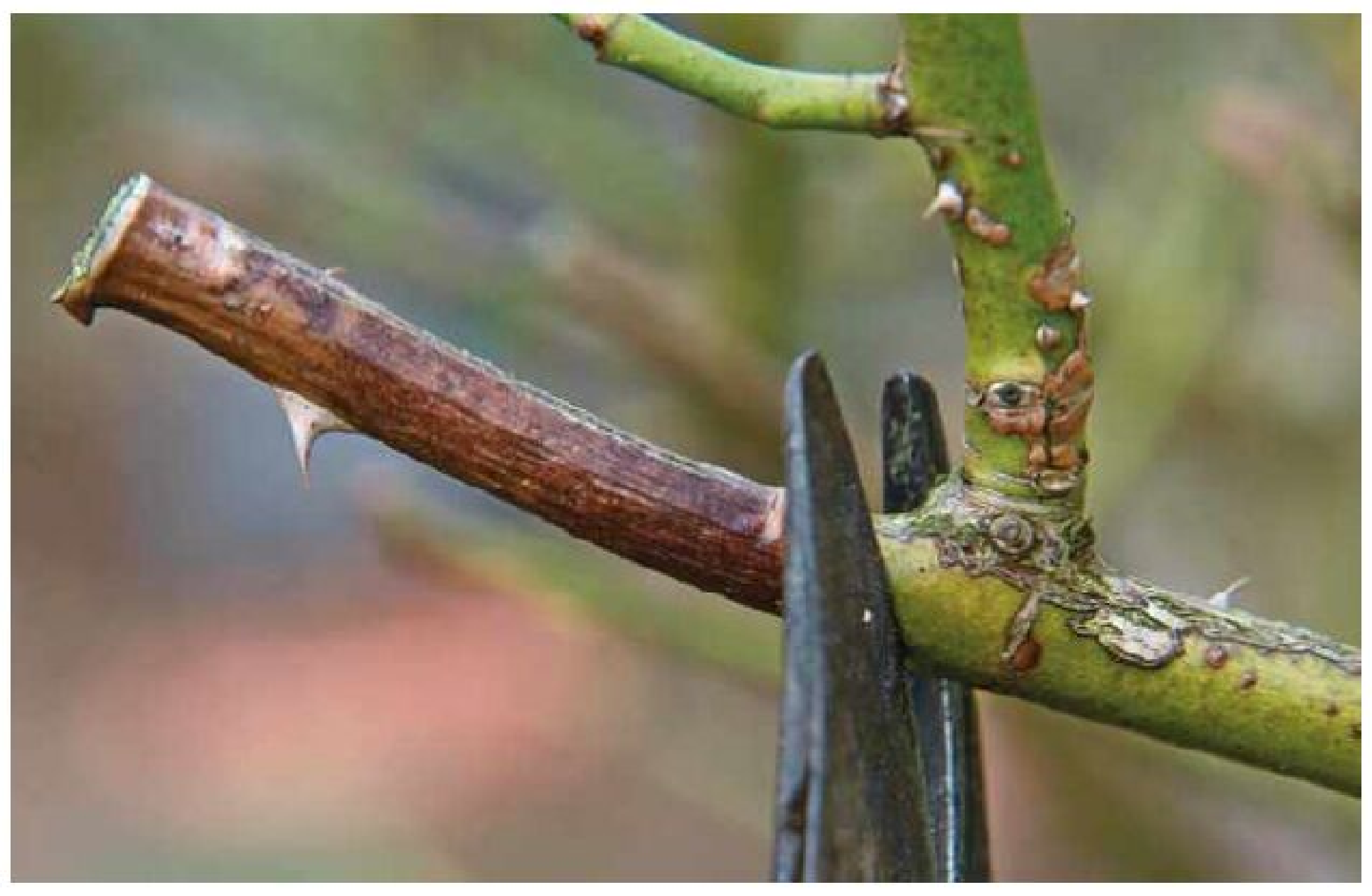


Avoid windrock

Winter gales can harm roses, especially if they are newly planted. Damage from strong winds can include loosening the plants' roots, known as windrock, and even snapped stems and branches.

Newly planted roses are more susceptible to windrock as their roots haven't yet had a chance to spread out into the surrounding soil and anchor them in. It can be avoided by pruning the plants in autumn as well as thinning out congested growth to create a lighter, more open framework, and by cutting back any stems that have become long and leggy. You can then prune the plants properly in late winter or early spring.

Shorten the stems of shrub roses that you will prune properly in spring. Work systematically around the plant, cutting all the stems back by about a third. Prune to just above an outward-facing bud, making an angled cut so that winter rain runs off easily and doesn't cause rot.



Remove dead snags

Long snags left on the plant can lead to die-back. Remove these with secateurs, making cuts next to a bud or a shoot.

KNOW-HOW

Your questions answered

Pruning

Q How do I renovate my tangled rambling roses?

A Rambling roses, unlike climbers, flower only once each year, on stems that grew the previous year. Autumn/winter is a good time to renovate a rambler as you can easily see the tangled stems. Remove any dead or diseased stems, then trim up to one third of the oldest growth, pruning out whole stems as close as possible to the ground. Next, tie in this year's growth as close to horizontal as possible, to promote blooms along the entire length. Prune the side shoots on the remaining stems and cut back the main stem tips by one third. Feed with a granular fertiliser and mulch heavily in spring.

Q Can you tell me how to prune a standard rose?

A Prune in February or early March to remove any dead, diseased, damaged, rubbing or crossing branches first. Then cut back the strongest shoots to within 20cm of the main stem; less vigorous shoots may be cut back to within 10cm of the main stem. Take out one or two old stems every three to five years to encourage new shoots. Remove fallen leaves regularly to help reduce disease build-up.

Q Why does my climbing rose only flower at the top?

A Encourage the main climbing stems to flower more by arching them downwards into arcs and tying them in. If they won't bend, plant a short-flowering shrub at the base to cover the bare stems. Feed with rose fertiliser in spring and again in June/July. For more pruning advice on climbing roses, see p112.

Q My old roses have produced lots of suckers. Should I dig them out and replace them?

A Suckers arise from the rootstock of grafted roses. They are easy to identify as their leaves are a different shape and colour, plus they have a different number of leaflets to cultivated roses. Ageing roses are more likely to produce suckers, especially when stressed or after hard pruning. They can be removed by following the sucker through the soil to the point of origin and pruning it out. Excessive suckering weakens cultivated roses, so you should dispose of such plants. If you plant a new rose, it's best to choose a new position if you have room, to avoid the chance of rose sickness.

Planting

Q Should I root prune roses before planting them?

A The main reason for root pruning roses is to reduce the size of the thick tap roots and encourage finer feeder roots, which do the main work of taking up nutrients and water. It's important to get the balance right. You should remove only a third of the length of each tap root at most.

Q When is the best time to move roses?

A Roses dislike upheaval in the growing season, so move them during their winter dormancy. Dig carefully around plants with a fork, loosening the soil – established plants have deep, penetrating roots, so try to avoid snapping them – then ease the plants carefully from the soil. Replant immediately in well-prepared ground. It's worth adding some mycorrhizal fungi granules to the planting hole, to encourage new root growth. You'll also need to prune the stems, to compensate for any root damage – reduce the canopy by between a half and one third.

Q How do I avoid rose replant disease/rose sickness?

A Replant disease ranges from general sickness to partial die-back or death. Avoid planting a rose in a spot occupied by another rose for at least five years. If you must use the same place and the old rose was not sick or dying, you can replant a new rose in the same spot. To be on the safe side, dig a 45cm x 45cm hole, then refill with soil from another part of the garden, bulked up with a generous helping of muck. Add mycorrhizal fungi to encourage new root growth.

Q Can I plant my bare-root roses into frozen soil?

A Never plant bare-root shrubs into frozen ground – wait until the soil is workable and not waterlogged. You can soakm them in water for a couple of hours, then pot up into damp but not wet compost. Keep in a cold but frost-free shed or unheated garage. Never wrap them in plastic, as this can cause rotting.

Q What kind of soil do roses need?

A Although most love clay, they can grow in other soils – roses in sandy or chalky soils will need extra feeding, watering and mulching. Some roses are less fussy about soil – see p96

Q **Which roses are thornless?**

A Try 'Madame Plantier', which is like a smaller-flowered, thornless version of 'Madame Hardy'. Plants flower only once in summer and bear clusters of strong-scented white flowers (see p42-43). The tall shrub or climbing rose 'The Generous Gardener' is a good choice, mainly for its sumptuous, fragrant pink blooms, but its smooth stems are a bonus. 'Mary Delany', a repeat-flowering climber with sprays of unusual, double, light pink blooms, has slender, almost thornless stems and can grow to almost four metres tall. The blooms have a fruity scent and appear throughout summer and into autumn.

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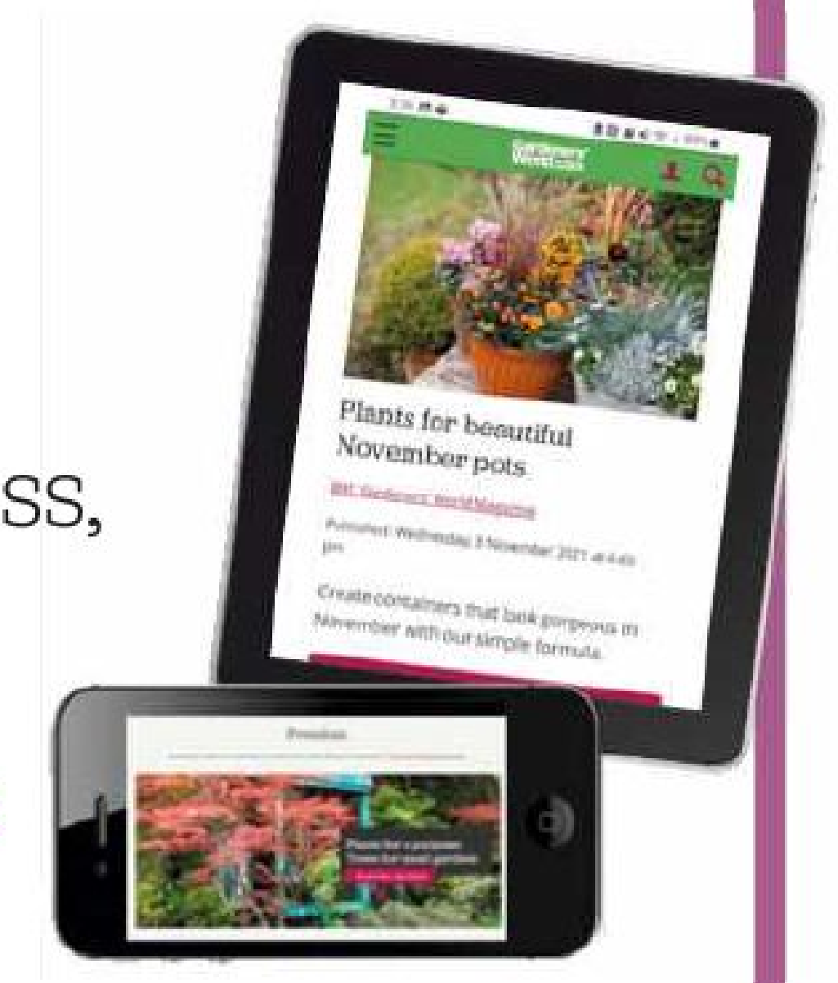
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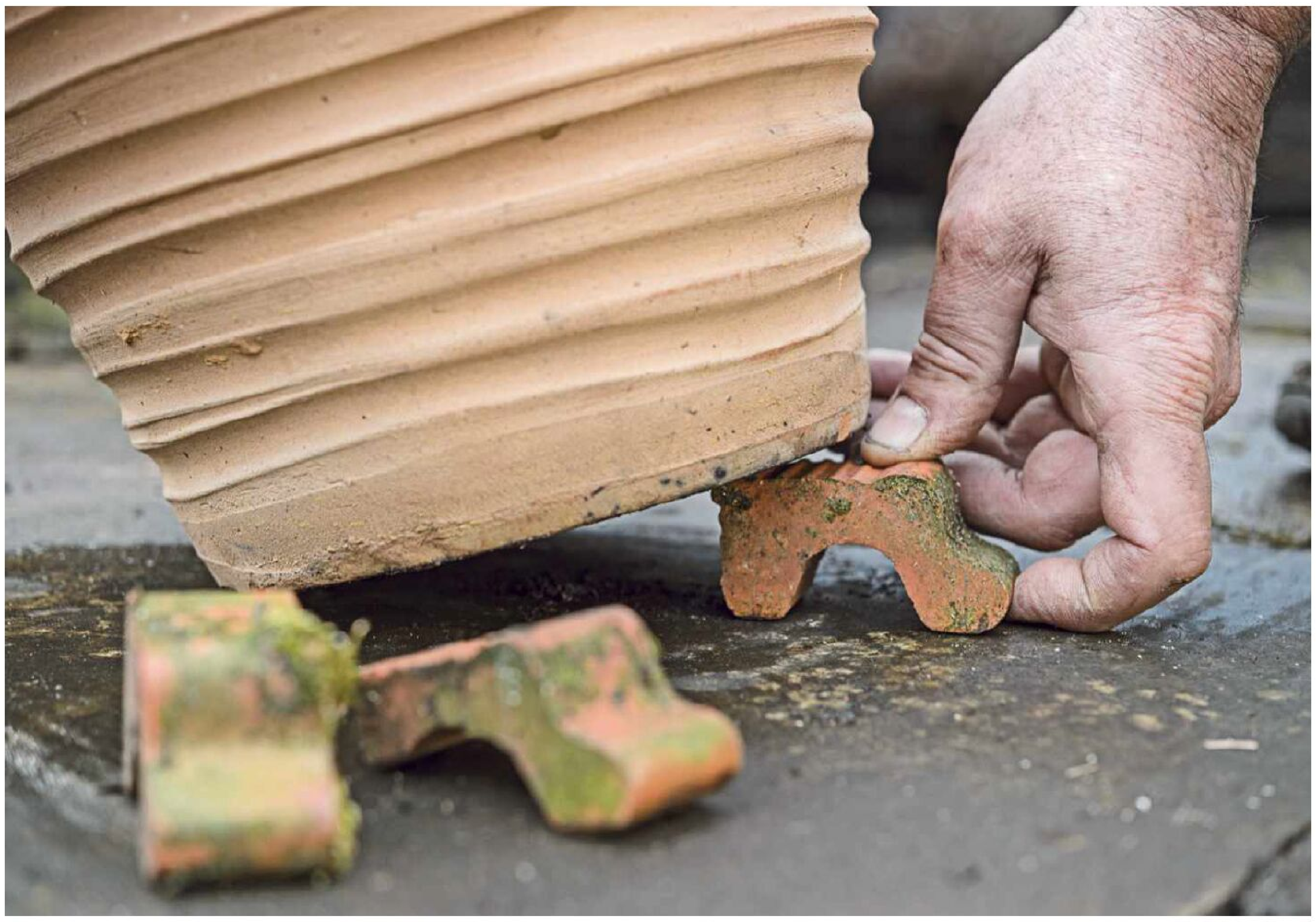
Pots

Q How long should a rose stay in its container?

A Top-dress a rose every other year in spring by removing the top 5cm of compost and replacing it with a fresh layer. Re-pot larger shrub, bush or climbing roses every two to three years into a container bigger than the last and filled with fresh compost.

Q What size of container do roses need?

A To make sure your rose is healthy and covered in flowers, it's essential to choose the right type and the right size of pot. The minimum size you'll need is 30cm x 30cm for a patio or miniature rose. For ground cover and short climbers it should be 45cm x 45cm, and for shrub roses it's best to use as big a container as you have room for – around 60cm x 60cm at a minimum – see p90.



Q How often should I water roses in containers?

A Keep on top of watering by checking your roses regularly, particularly in summer. Roses in containers will need watering every day during warm weather to avoid causing stress to the plants and to encourage a good season of flowers and growth. The compost should be moist but not saturated. To ensure good drainage, place containers up on bricks or pot feet, so that any excess water can drain away easily.

Q What kind of compost should I use for roses in pots?

A Use loam-based compost for plants in long-term containers – it will ensure pots won't dry out too quickly and will hold nutrients well.

Feeding & watering

Q How often should I feed roses in pots?

A Mix a dose of controlled-release plant food into the compost when planting in spring or summer. Then feed every couple of weeks in summer with a half-strength balanced liquid feed to keep the leaves healthy, promote flowering and get you in the habit of watering.

Q Do I need to mulch my roses?

A First, mulch your roses in March, after their annual pruning. Use well-rotted compost or manure, spent mushroom compost, leaf mould, bark chippings or recycled council compost. If your soil is light loam, sandy or chalky, give a second mulch in autumn to top up the roughage in the soil – the worms will soon work it in. Keep the mulch clear of the stems, leaving a 10cm gap between the mulch and stems.

Q What's the best type of feed to use on roses?

A Manure or compost contains fibre and trace elements, but not enough nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium for hard-working roses. So give a general-purpose feed such as blood, fish and bone or a specialist granular rose food every spring. Sprinkle evenly over the soil around each rose bush, or treat the entire bed. Follow it up with a second dose after the first flush of flowers has finished. This will stimulate new growth. If your roses are not growing strongly, or the weather is too dry for granular feed to dissolve in the soil, use liquid rose feed every few weeks during summer.

Q Do I have to add mycorrhizal fungi when planting roses?

A A sprinkling of mycorrhizal fungi (which is often sold under the name Rootgrow) over the roots of roses helps them absorb water and nutrients and fights off disease. Roses therefore grow quicker if you add mycorrhizal fungi to the roots when planting – but sprinkle directly onto the roots, not just in the hole. Mycorrhizal fungi also beefs up the soil's natural mycorrhizal fungi, which work in harmony with plant roots, resulting in healthier plants.

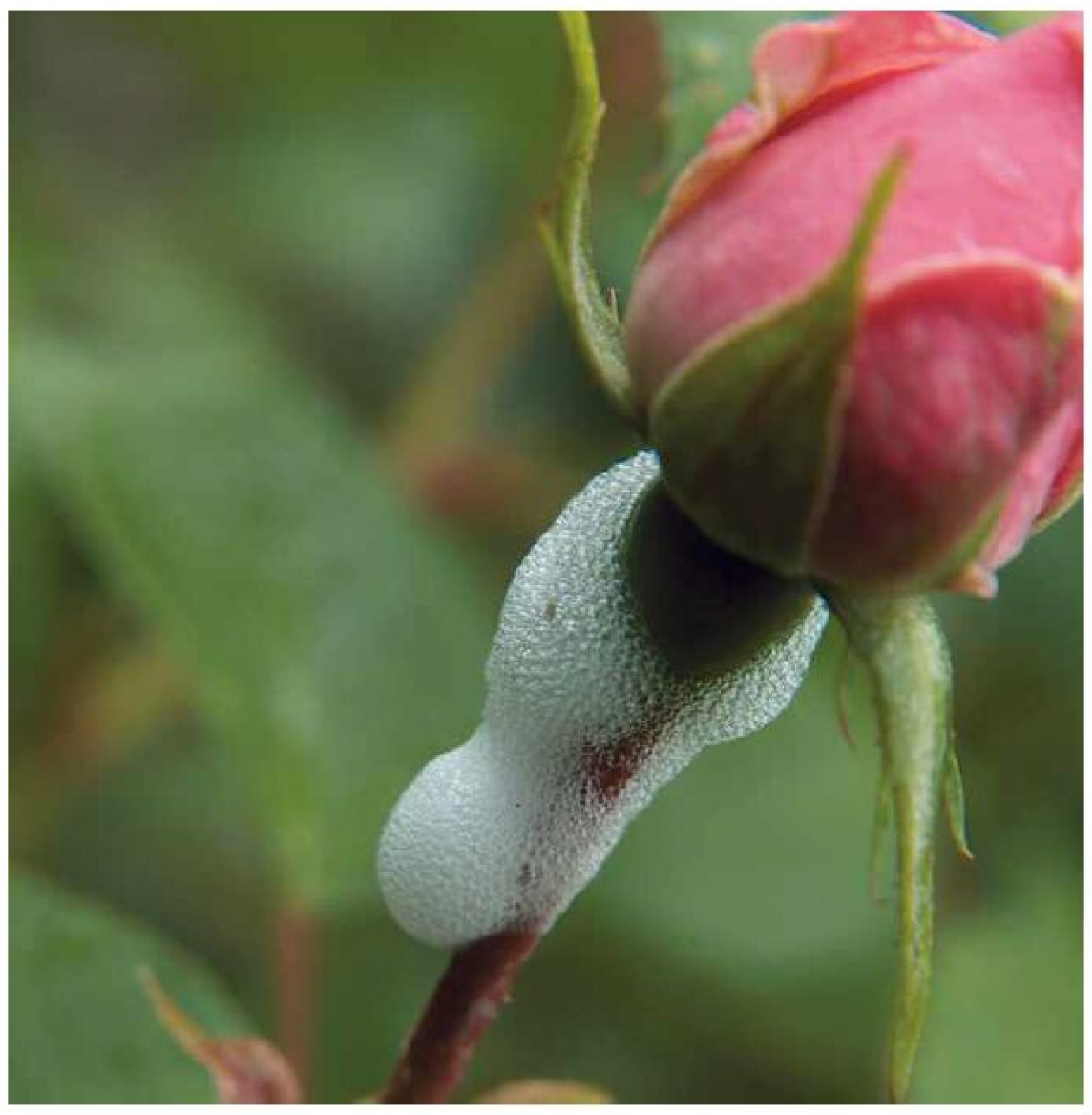
Q How often should I water roses?

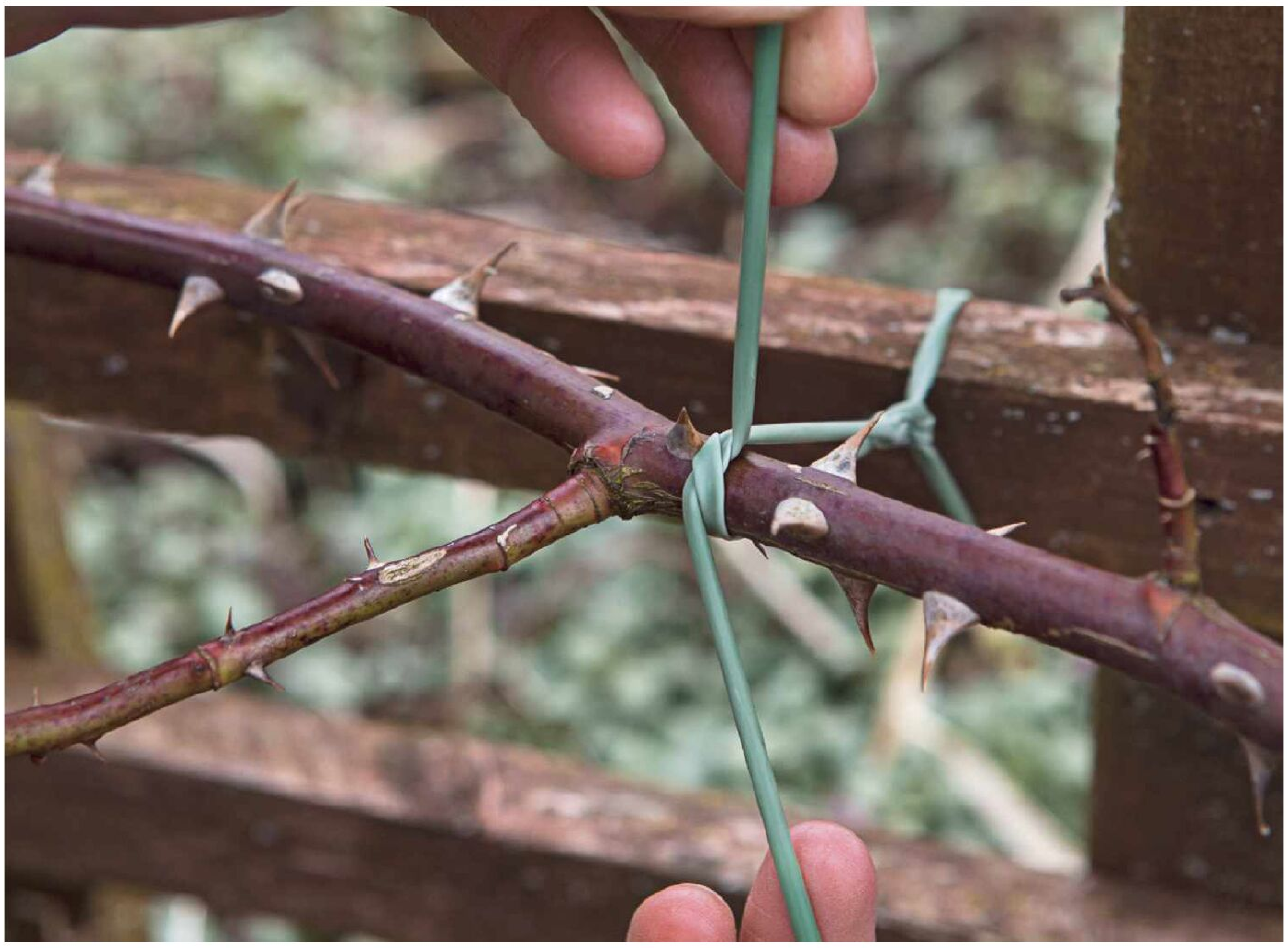
A Water well immediately after planting and in dry spells for the next two summers at least. A rose planted during the summer will require much more watering than a bare-root rose planted in autumn.

Rose care

Q What is this strange white froth?

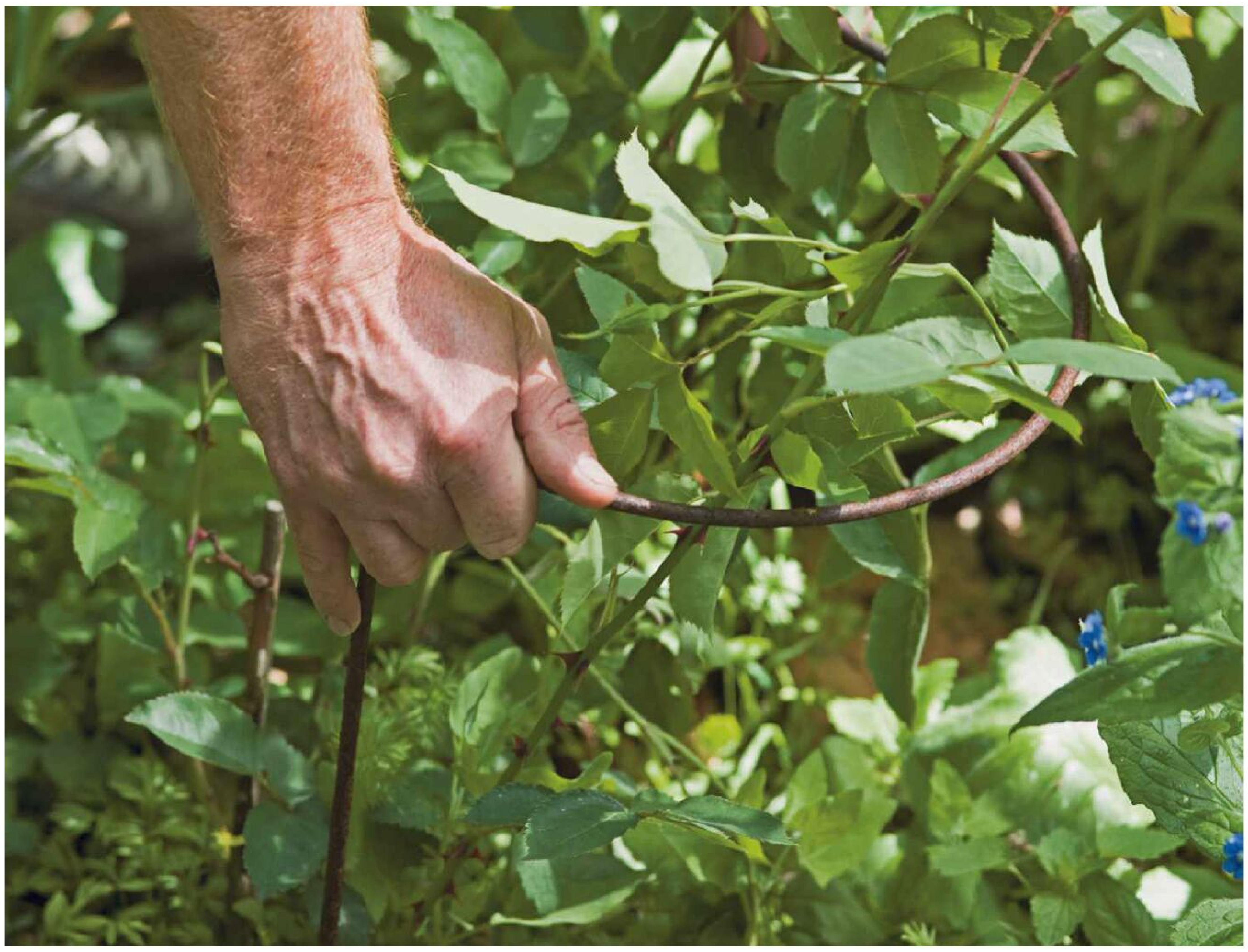
A This wet white froth appears on the shoots of roses during late spring and early summer – inside is a small green sap-feeding froghopper nymph. It looks unsightly but does little damage. Wipe the frothy blobs off if you wish, but hungry garden will keep control over this pest.





Q How do I tie in my climbing roses?

A Establish a framework of branches on roses by tying in each stem in spring. Before you begin, prune back any stems that have split or died back over winter. Remove any thick old stems you can't bend onto a support. Then fan out the stems horizontally and tie in place at several points along their length. Give them plenty of space, so they don't rub against each other. This will also allow air to circulate, which will reduce the risk of fungal disease. If any stems reach beyond their allotted space after you've fanned them out, prune back, making a cut just above a pair of leaves.



Q Do I need to support my roses?

A Old-fashioned shrub roses may need support to stop them flopping over – put poles or hoops around them to keep them upright and show off their flowers. Standard roses need a tree stake – replace the original cane with a strong stake and tree tie to keep them from blowing over.

Q What should I do to help prevent diseases attacking my roses?

A Good rose hygiene can help prevent disease, but you can also choose a rose that has good resistance to diseases like black spot – try 'Charles de Mills', 'Mortimer Sackler', 'Boscobel' or 'Lady of Shalott'. To keep disease at bay, rake up fallen leaves and bin them rather than compost them, and don't let roses dry out.

Q I would like to know if I can treat rose diseases organically?

A Fungal diseases such as rust, black spot and powdery mildew can be controlled by good gardening practice. Keep roses well pruned, don't plant where the air is damp and avoid wetting the foliage when you're watering. Aphids have natural predators such as ladybirds and their larvae, lacewing larvae, hoverfly larvae and naturally parasitic wasps, so provide nectar sources, habitats and bug hotels to encourage them into the garden. Contact sprays based on fatty acids and plant oils are environmentally-friendly but need several applications. Problems can be reduced by winter pruning to remove infected stems and keeping the garden clear of infected material. Mulching in winter prevents the overwintering spores of black spot splashing onto stems. Check plants regularly and act at the first sign of problems.

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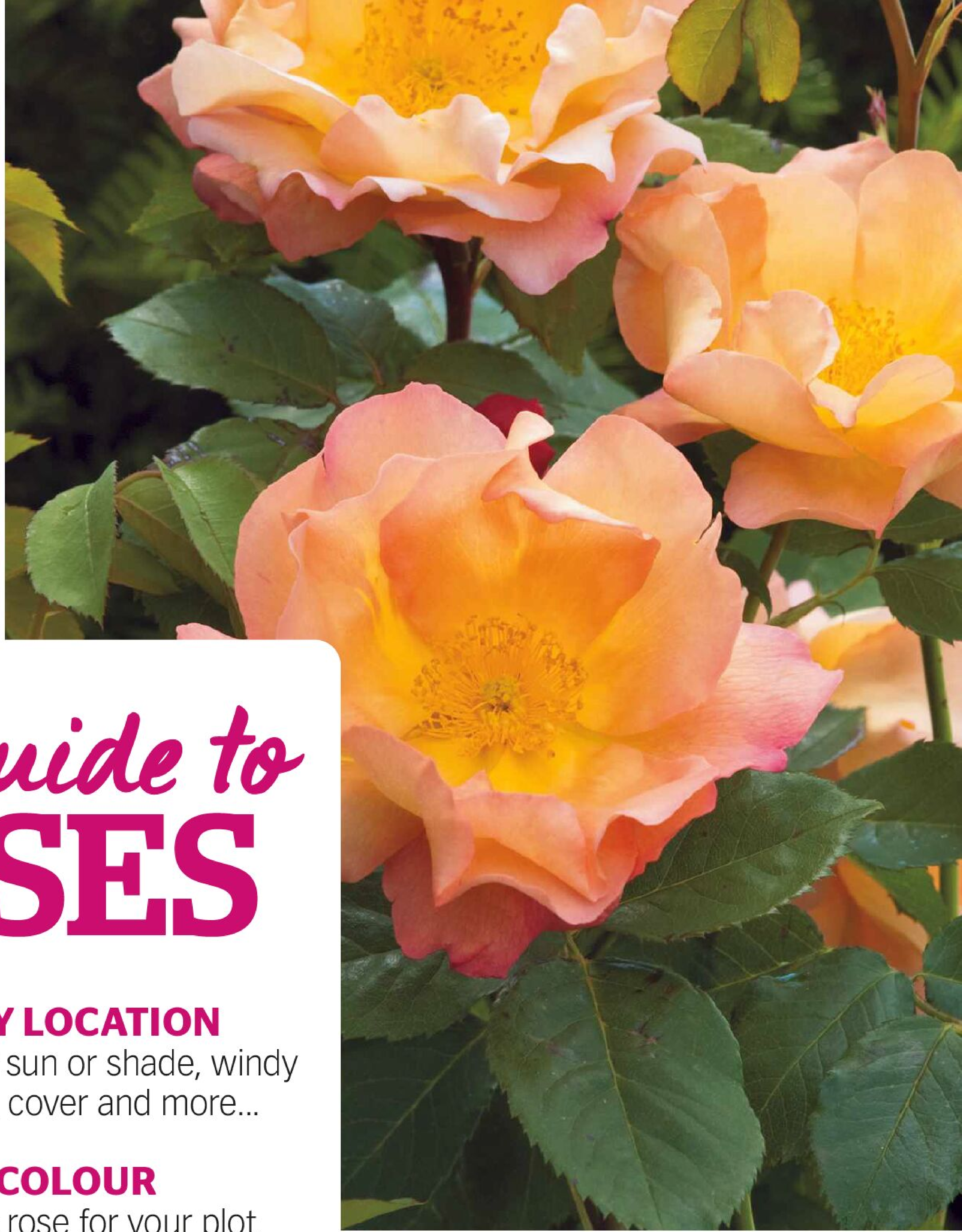

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